

# Tips and tricks for your research proposal

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# Format requirements

[FNU Research Intent Template](#)

[USP Research Intent Template](#)

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# Outline of the proposal

1. Research Background
  2. Research Aim
  3. Research Questions
  4. Short Literature Review
  5. Methodology
  6. Research Outcomes
  7. **References**
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# Research Background (300 words)

Pro tip: [Check this blog](#)

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Start by stating the problem.



Why is the problem significant?  
(tangible implications, from social,  
environmental or economic  
perspectives).



Use available information to describe  
the magnitude of the problem.  
Number of farmers, % of GDP, health  
and environmental statistics.

# Research Aim (200 words)



Explicitly state the aim and objectives.



Simplify a single aim and provide details in the objectives.



This section should flow into the research questions.

Pro tip: [Check this blog](#)

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# Research Questions (200 words)

Pro tip: [Check this blog](#)



Avoid questions that can be answered by "yes" or "no".



Make sure the questions are focused and specific (think about including details such as location, population or intervention).



Match the questions to the objectives.



Use the right verbs for the right type of questions.

## Research Question Type

Descriptive research question

Comparative research question

Correlational research question

Exploratory research question

Explanatory research question

Evaluation research question

## Question Formulation/Example

*What are the characteristics of ATP synthase?*

*How does human growth hormone mimic the action of testosterone?*

*What is the relationship between baldness and age?*

*Is it possible that VEGF has an effect in plant photosynthesis?*

*What is the cause of increased violence among young adults?*

*What is the efficacy of using toothpaste to heal mosquito bites?*

[Source](#)

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RQ1 : Does having a dog at home require responsibility from a child?

RQ2 : In what ways does having a dog at home require responsibility from a child?

RQ1: How does aspirin affect older adult populations who suffer from low heart pressure?

RQ2: How do medication affect people?

Source

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# Literature Review (300 words)

**Do not  
forget  
references!**

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Demonstrate your knowledge of the field.



Refine your methodology and research questions.

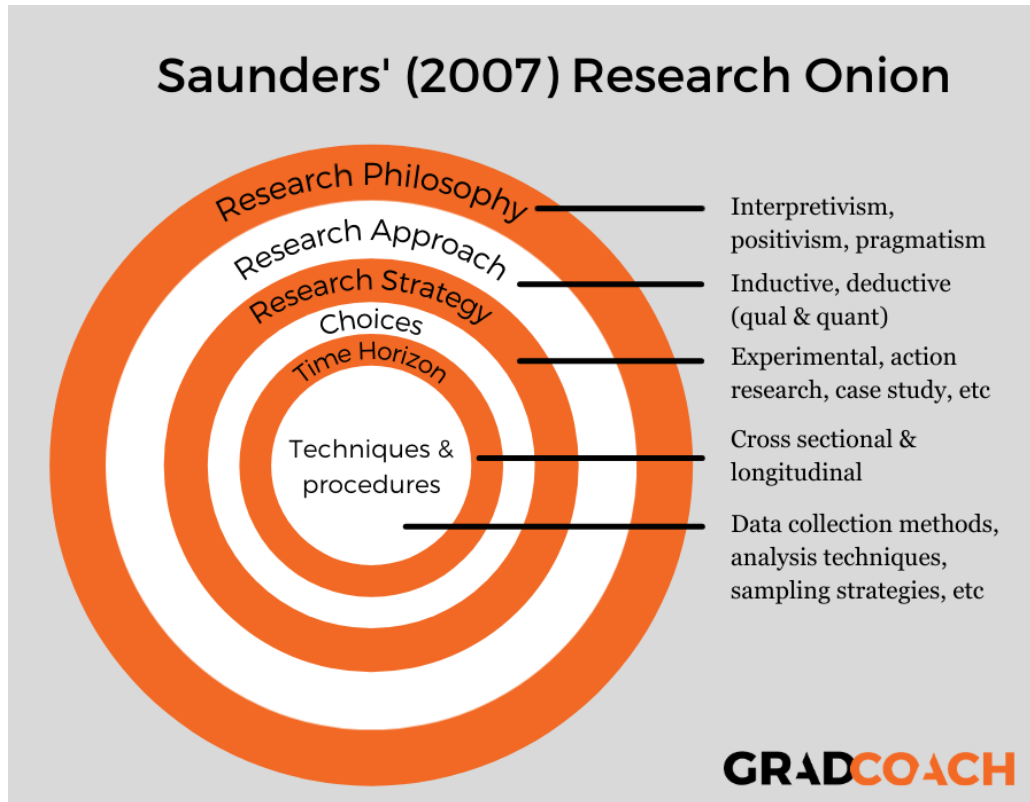


Identify the gaps in the literature.



Present any key concepts/frameworks.

# Methodology (300 words)



Pro tip: [Check this blog](#)



Describe your research approach (qualitative, quantitative, mixed).



Determine your methods and data collection tools.



Do not forget to include the analysis.

# Research Outcomes (300 words)

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Selling point of the proposal.



Contribution to knowlegde  
and/or practice.



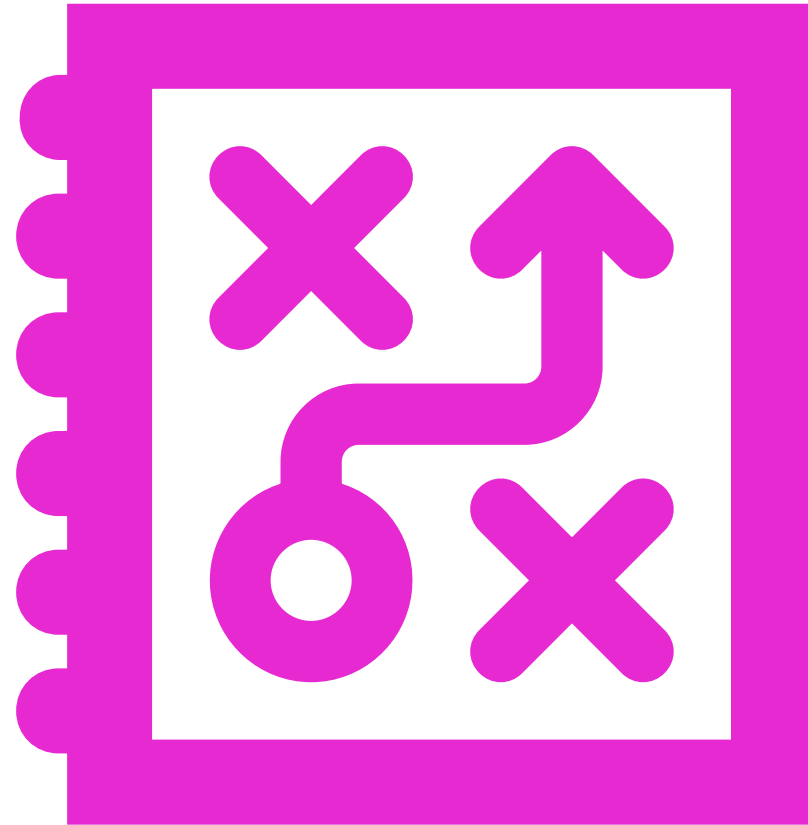
Think broadly about benefits  
of your work and who and  
how would you like to  
incluence.

# Key points about formulating the research proposal

- Teamwork is key.
  - Take your time.
  - Build a good foundation.
  - Start developing lifelong research skills
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# Common problems that you need to avoid

- Lack of consistency and clarity.
  - Missalignment between aims, questions, methods and outcomes.
  - Rushing the proposal development.
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A tropical beach scene featuring numerous palm trees of varying heights and colors (green and yellow) against a blue sky with white clouds. In the foreground, there is a sandy beach and clear turquoise water. A dark, semi-transparent rectangular overlay covers the left and center portions of the image, containing the text "Thank you!". On the right side, there are several decorative white circles of varying sizes, some overlapping the palm trees, and a solid magenta circle at the top right.

**Thank you!**