

# The research proposal II



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## The donut and swiss roll effect



- (Blaxter, Hughes & Tight, 2000)

## Key questions

- **WHAT**
- **HOW**
- **WHY**

## Evaluating a proposal: A checklist

- Have you provided precise, specific objectives and remained focused on them?
- Have you demonstrated that you understand the context of the research?
- Have you included theoretical and empirical contributions by other researchers and cited landmark studies?
- Is your proposed methodology sensible, workable and accurate?
- Is your research topic manageable in size, and is the scope appropriate to your degree?
- Are adequate resources available?
- Do you have the necessary skills and knowledge, or must new ones be developed before or during the research?
- Are you making an original contribution?
  - A question not answered previously
  - Apply existing theory to new context
  - A new research design
  - Synthesise issues previously discipline specific

## Writing the proposal

- **Title and title page**
- **Abstract**
- **Introduction-**
  - area and topic
  - Background and context
  - Statement of purpose
- **Research questions**
  - General
  - Specific
- **Conceptual framework** (if appropriate)
- **Literature**
- **Methods**
  - Design
  - Sample
  - Data collection
  - Data analysis
- **Significance**
- **Limitations and delimitations**
- **Ethical issues**
- **References**
- **Appendices**

(Punch 2000)

## Introduction check list

- Establish the problem
- Frame the problem within the wider literature
- Identify deficiencies in the literature
- Identify a target audience noting the problem for that audience
  - Identify research area/topic
  - General statement of purpose of research
  - General and specific research questions

(Punch, 2000)

## Theory -Check list

- What if any is the perspective?
- What is the role of theory?
  - Descriptive-explanation
  - Theory generation-theory verification
- Pre-structured or unfolding?

(Punch, 2000, p35)

## Literature Check list

- What literature is relevant?
- What is the relationship between the literature and my study?
- How will the study and the proposal deal with the literature?

(Punch, 2000, p35)

## Methodology Check list

- Quantitative or qualitative?
- What strategy?
- Is there a conceptual framework?
- Who or what will be studied?
- From whom will data be collected?
- How will the data be collected?
- Ethical issues
- How will the data be analysed

(Punch, 2000, p35)

## Tips on writing

- Use of headings/subheadings
- Need a logical argument
- Development and inter-connectiveness of ideas
- Well organised paragraphs with topic sentences
- Connection between points
- Purpose to inform not persuade
- Consistency
- Academic style-concise
- Well edited

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## Example quantitative

- There is an increasing number of overseas students, particularly from south-east Asia, being educated in Australian schools. Differences in schooling and cultural traditions lead to different understandings of what learning actually is and the strategies students use to regulate their own learning. It is possible to identify a number of these characteristics ... (Biggs, 1991; Gerner, 1991).... These contrast with ..., the behaviours considered desirable in Australian students. If Australian teachers are to cater successfully for students from other countries, it is important that ...
- The research, therefore, aims to determine if cultural differences in understanding...exist. Specifically, the research will compare the conceptions of learning and the use of .... The research will test the hypothesis that ...

(Punch, 2000)

## The study's substantial and original contribution to knowledge

- The proposed study represents an original contribution in that **it takes a cross cultural perspective** with respect to ...The research **will extend and integrate theory** in the area of student learning. SRL theory , **developed from a Western perspective will be applied to** participants from Asian countries...The motivational component of SRL will **be explored with a view to expanding** the notion of ..

• (Punch, 2000)

## Theoretical framework

The importance of SRL in learning has now been firmly established (Bandura, 1989). In contrast to theories of achievement SRL focuses on why and how students become ... How has been explained by ...The **why** has been explained in terms of **motivational processes that are both A.. and B...**

The proposed research **seeks to extend this view of motivational causation to include another component.**

Many studies have established the relationship between X, Y and Z (.....) **but this research has used Western participants. There are two problems with generalising from these studies to...First, ...**

One current theory of SRL perceives students to be .....

**Based on this view of SRL, a structured interview for assessing student use of SRL strategies was developed (Zimmerman, 1986)**

(Punch, 2000)

## Lead in sentences

- The role of teacher characteristics in mediation is unclear. Jones (2009) found that...Smith (2010), however, found. Others have concluded...
- As with all exploratory research, the findings will be tentative. It is important to note: 1. the sample size, while appropriate will not support generalisation to ..
- There are both practical and theoretical reasons for conducting this study. From a practical perspective, knowing the benefits of ...will provide information for practitioners ...

## Conciseness

- This qualitative study will describe and analyze ...The theoretical framework is ...The research design will involve....The research will have implications for ...
- Participants will be recruited via .. Permission will be obtained from ...Participants will be asked to .... They will be required to satisfy...

## References

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