

## *Writing a Dissertation Proposal*

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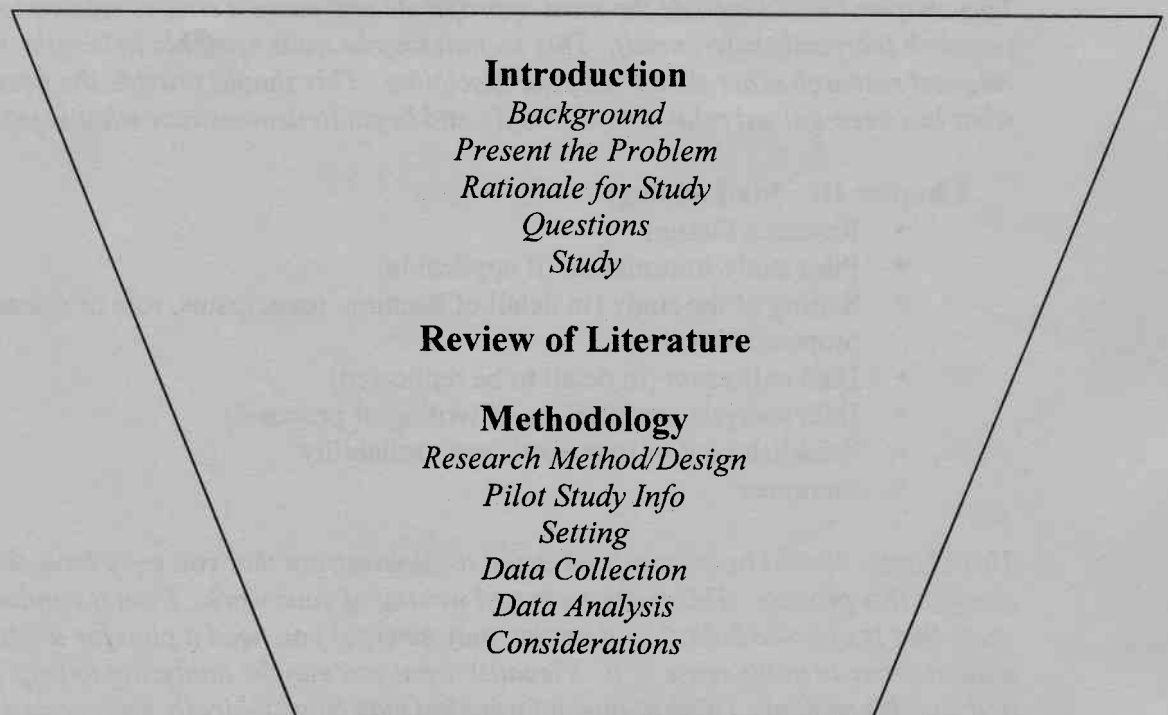
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### **First: Prepare Yourself**

- Develop your research interest
- Accumulate required knowledge- read selectively and critically
- Acquire the necessary skills
- Establish adequate resources

### **Second: Prepare the proposal**

- Determine timeline for writing/ set expectations
- Write to make your own ideas explicit- detail to the extent that your work can be replicated.
- Read your work frequently and with “fresh” eyes- read for different purposes
- Review and welcome discussions to allow for strengths to be identified and the weakness of your thinking - or of the research of others to be clarified



*To keep in mind...*

Shared decision making/ shared expertise/ shared risk **Communicate**

Committee members are in place to facilitate your success

Changes/ suggestions should be welcomed and thoughtfully considered

### **Chapter I: Introduction**

- Overview of the Issues (organize by issue)
- Statement of Problem
- Importance/Purpose of the study (type)
- Research Questions: overarching question/ research questions
- Significance of Study
- Limitations of Study
- Terms used in Study
- Organization of the Proposal- preview
- Summary

*This chapter should provide the rationale for your body of work. This allows you an opportunity to explain why this study will provide valuable information for those in your field.*

### **Chapter II : Review of Literature**

- Theoretical Perspectives
- Related Research (organize by research topic)
- Summary (leads from Chapter 1 to Chapter 3)

*This chapter should include the most appropriate and current studies related to your research (correctly referenced). This section may be quite variable in length. Consider relevant research other than from your discipline. This should provide the background of what has been gained related to this topic and begin to demonstrate what is yet needed.*

### **Chapter III: Methodology**

- Research Design
- Pilot study information (if applicable)
- Setting of the study (in detail of location, participants, role of researcher, proposed timeline)
- Data collection (in detail to be replicated)
- Data analysis (in detail- as of writing of proposal)
- Establishment of trustworthiness- reliability
- Summary

*This chapter should be written with detail to demonstrate that you truly have thought through this process. This is the technical writing of your work. Even if conducting a study that is open-ended (as to data that may emerge) you need a plan for analyzing the data in order to make sense of it. Visualize what you may be analyzing to help you address this section. Think of how information may be graphically represented to clearly represent your ideas to your reader (organizing information in charts, graphs, tables, etc.) with supportive narrative.*

*You may find helpful:*

Krathwohl, D.R., & Smith, N.L. (2005). *How to prepare a dissertation proposal: Suggestions for students in education and the social and behavioral sciences.* Syracuse, NY: Syracuse University Press.