

Format for Research Proposal

(rev 8.25.06)

NOTE: Use APA format throughout. See examples (protocols) included in your reading packet.

Title of Proposed Research Study: Place the title and your name on the cover page.

1. Introduction (1 page): Describe the general topic and its importance, briefly discuss the findings of previous studies related to this topic (i.e., articles you read in class this semester or elsewhere), and state the purpose of your proposed study.
2. Method (3-4 pages; use the following headings for major sections):
 - a) Participants and Setting: In one paragraph, briefly describe the subjects you would include in the study (e.g., number, special criteria for selection, ages, diagnoses, etc.). In addition, describe the experimental setting (e.g., therapy room, classroom) and any special materials that will be used.
 - b) Response Measurement and Reliability: In one paragraph, list and define the target behaviors, describe how they will be measured (e.g., frequency count on data forms, 10-s partial interval recording using a hand-held computer, etc.), and describe how reliability will be assessed (i.e., percentage of the observations that will include a second observer, method for calculating interobserver agreement).
 - c) Procedures: Describe each major condition (i.e., what will be done) and its purpose. For example, describe the procedures in effect during any assessment, baseline, and treatment conditions. In addition, include length of sessions (e.g., 15 min) and the number of sessions implemented each day (e.g., 3 sessions).
 - d) Experimental Design: In one paragraph, describe how the procedures (above) will be sequenced to show experimental control (e.g., reversal, multiple baseline, or multielement designs).
3. Expected Results and Implications (1 page)
 - a) In one-two paragraphs, describe possible outcomes for each condition (i.e., what might happen to the behaviors when they are exposed to the experimental procedures).
 - b) In one-two paragraphs, discuss the major conclusions of your findings based on the expected results and state the importance of these findings. In addition, discuss potential weaknesses or limitations of the procedures and include implications for future research.
4. References: Include on a separate page, in APA format

Expected length: 7 pages, excluding title page.

Grading:

Introduction: 3 pts (topic=1, previous research=1, purpose=1)

Participants: 2 pts (subjects=1, setting=1)

Measurement: 6 pts (target definitions=2, measurement=2, reliability=2)

Procedures: 6 pts

Experimental design: 2 pts

Results: 6 pts (outcomes=2, conclusions=2, limitations/implications=2)

Format and style: 3 pts

Points for overall excellence: 2 (all or none)

Total: 30 pts