

# Research Plan

**Instructions:** This Research Plan is meant to get a sense of your research interest and capacity to undertake research and publication in case you get accepted to the graduate program that you're applying for. Please give your answers below much thought and preparation. You have two formats to choose from: (1) the Research Plan (Structured format); or (2) the Concept Paper in Essay format. Please see below.

Whichever format you choose to articulate your research plan, make sure that you fill in the information requested below.

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name
Degree Program Applied for		
College Degree		
Master's Degree		
Email address		

## Option 1: Research Plan (Structured Format)

1	<b>Topic of your proposed psychological research</b> (Provide one topic only for your proposed psychological research. This topic will be the basis of your answers in the sections below. You may, however, include a number of psychological concepts and variables related to this topic.)
2	<b>Brief literature review</b> (Based on your reading of at least five (5) scholarly journal articles about the topic of your proposed research, present a synthesis of the findings of the studies in these scholarly journal articles. Note that you should not copy and paste the abstracts found in the empirical journal articles you read. Entry here must be in paragraph format and <u>NOT</u> in bullet format.)

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3 **Research question or objective**  
(Write the research objective/s or question/s that you aim to address in this proposed study.)

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4 **Research methodology**  
(Indicate the appropriate approach (i.e., qualitative/quantitative approach), and the method for data collection and data analysis you intend to utilize for this proposed research.)

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5 **Contributions of the proposed study**  
(Discuss the potential contributions of this proposed study to your field of study (i.e., your graduate program track)

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6 **References**  
List the references of the scholarly journal articles you cited in section 2 (Brief literature review).

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**Publication Plan**

List the names of at least three (3) psychology-related journals to which you may submit your paper if your research above is implemented and completed. Please make sure that the journals you identified are peer-reviewed and listed/indexed in the Web of Science (WoS/ISI) or SCOPUS).

## Option 2: Research Concept Paper (Essay format)

### Guide to Writing a Research Concept Paper

Prepared by Dr. Madelene Sta. Maria

#### What is a research concept paper?

- It is a short summary that informs the reader about the research project, its importance, and how it will be carried out.
- The concept paper helps the student initially organize their ideas for a future research project and identify gaps in their knowledge prior to writing up a full research proposal.
- The paper provides a foundation for writing the dissertation. It provides an opportunity for the student and adviser/doctoral committee to engage in an introductory discussion of the student's research project.
- The paper is essentially a tentative proposal as it allows the student to focus on a research topic or area and obtain early feedback on his/her plans.
- The paper will allow the student and adviser to map out a clear plan for the student's dissertation.

#### What are the elements of a research concept paper?

***(NOTE: Applicants should follow this section as a guide to writing their research concept paper.)***

1. Title in the form of a question.
2. A description of the research topic by briefly summarizing what is already known in the psychological literature.
3. A one-sentence statement of the research question.
4. The rationale for doing the research (i.e., why is the research worth doing?)
5. A description of how the researcher plans to answer the research question:
  - a. What data will be gathered?
  - b. How data will be analyzed?
  - c. How the collection and analysis of data will answer the research question.

The Concept Paper: Supporting the students' thesis research journey (Shaurette, 2017):

"The first is the submission of a short **Research Concept Paper**. Less detailed than the first three chapters of the thesis that is typically submitted as a full research proposal prior to beginning their thesis research, the concept paper is a simple unstructured format that students find less daunting to produce than the full proposal. It is due at mid-semester and consists of three to five pages of text that must include: (1) some

description of the general area of study that interests them; (2) a brief literature supported synthesis of what is known and not known about the subject; (3) the purpose of their study; (4) their research question(s) or hypothesis; (5) the research methodology(s) they intend to use to answer the research question(s) or validate the hypothesis; and (5) their preliminary plan of study to show how their course selection will support their thesis research. This simple proposal forces students to focus their research framework in a format that is helpful in discussing their research ideas with others, prior to investing significant time in the full proposal. The timing of the Research Concept Paper, completed early in their second semester of study, helps to provide information that can be used to initiate discussion with potential thesis committee members. In addition, the time commitment is small enough that they can feel greater freedom to shift to other possible areas of research if necessary.” (p. 10)

#### References:

Research Concept Paper. Retrieved from <https://www.statisticssolutions.com/research-concept-paper/> on January 28, 2021.

Shaurette, M.E. (2017). Construction Research Fundamentals Course to Support Graduate Student Built Environment Thesis and Dissertation Research and Writing. DOI:10.18260/1-2—28071

What is a concept paper? Retrieved from [http://sociology.morrisville.edu/perpetual/Writing/What\\_Is\\_A\\_Concept\\_Paper.htm](http://sociology.morrisville.edu/perpetual/Writing/What_Is_A_Concept_Paper.htm). on January 28, 2021.

## Research Concept Paper

**Instructions: The concept paper ranges from 1 to 2 double-spaced pages (250-500 words).**

**References:**