

## **LET'S START OUR RESEARCH**

### **Coaching clinic for thesis proposal writing**

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#### **7 initial steps to start writing our thesis proposal are as follow**

- Designing interesting topic and title
- Finding research gap and reflecting research novelty
- Formulating research problem and objectives
- Constructing convincing research background
- Identifying research scope and limitation
- Avoiding plagiarism through similarity checker
- Checking language using online tool

#### **1. Designing interesting topic and title**

There are five aspects to concern in deciding the topic of interest to be researched according to Stephen E. Brock (NCSP California State University):

1. Personal – Identify an area of interest
2. Practical – Identify an available population and/or setting for the study
3. Feasible – Consider an issue/s related to the area of interest that can be studied
4. Important – Identify a worthwhile research question
5. Ethical – Make certain that conducting the study will not harm anyone

EXAMPLE of current language topics:

- [\*\*Double Talk, Euphemisms, & Professional Jargon\*\*](#)
  - [\*\*Language and Advertising\*\*](#)
  - [\*\*Language and Community\*\*](#)
  - [\*\*Language and Cultural Identity\*\*](#)
  - [\*\*Language and Culture\*\*](#)
  - [\*\*Language and Gender\*\*](#)
  - [\*\*Language and Literacy\*\*](#)
  - [\*\*Language and Power\*\*](#)
  - [\*\*Language and Sexism\*\*](#)
  - [\*\*Language and the Media\*\*](#)
  - [\*\*Language of Politics\*\*](#)
  - [\*\*Language and Technology\*\*](#)
  - [\*\*Offensive Language and Free Speech\*\*](#)
  - [\*\*Standard and Non-Standard English\*\*](#)
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Then, the next step is to narrow down the topic by considering these:

- a. Focus on a specific type or class
- b. Focus on a particular space or region
- c. Focus on a certain time or a period
- d. Focus on a certain aspect, for instance: social, phsyological, morphological, semantical etc
- e. Focus on a specific population, i.e.: gender, age, ethnicity, etc.

To do this, you also need to become competent in research. How to become research competent? The following is the suggested steps:

- 1) Learn to think like researchers – critically, analytically, methodically
- 2) Educate ourselves on research methods
- 3) Read other librarians' researches, and try to evaluate their work, critiquing on their shortcomings or limitations

## **2. Finding research gap and reflecting research novelty**

### *What is research gap?*

the missing piece or pieces in the research literature, is the area that has not yet been explored or is under-explored. This could be a population or sample (size, type, location, etc.), research method, data collection and/or analysis, or other research variables or conditions

### *How to find gaps?*

Conducting an exhaustive literature review is your first step. It is gathering a broad range of research articles on your topic (e.g.: [openknowledgemap.org](http://openknowledgemap.org))

As you search for journal articles, you will need to read critically across the breadth of the literature to identify these gaps.

Your goal should be to find a 'space' or opening for contributing new research.

The first step You may want to look for research that approaches the topic from a variety of methods – qualitative, quantitative, or mixed methods.

*Construct your own map (at least 5 from latest research), fill out this table:*

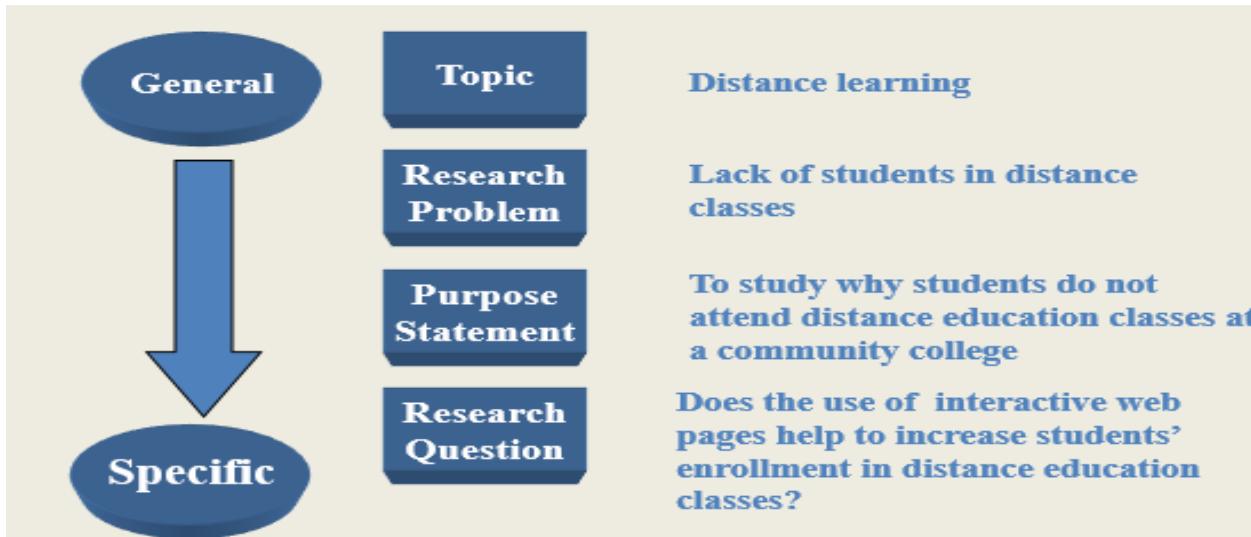
Title	Year of publication	Aims	Participant	Instrument	Finding	Strength	Shortcoming	Implication

### *Is it okay to replicate a research?*

- a. Justify the replication
- b. When your research is just a little different from earlier studies your whole lit review should focus on that LITTLE difference.
- c. You cannot show the importance of initial research and not talking about the importance of your addition.

### 3. Formulating research problem and objectives

Identify how the presentation of research topic and its break down to research question as follow:



Keep in mind that the research question is not the same to research problem

#### What is a research question?

A research question is the question around which you center your research. It should be:

- **clear:** it provides enough specifics that one's audience can easily understand its purpose without needing additional explanation.
- **focused:** it is narrow enough that it can be answered thoroughly in the space the writing task allows.
- **concise:** it is expressed in the fewest possible words.
- **complex:** it is not answerable with a simple "yes" or "no," but rather requires synthesis and analysis of ideas and sources prior to composition of an answer.
- **arguable:** its potential answers are open to debate rather than accepted facts.

### *Evaluating the problem*

Effectiveness (can I find an answer?)

Significance (need, importance)

Originality (already done)

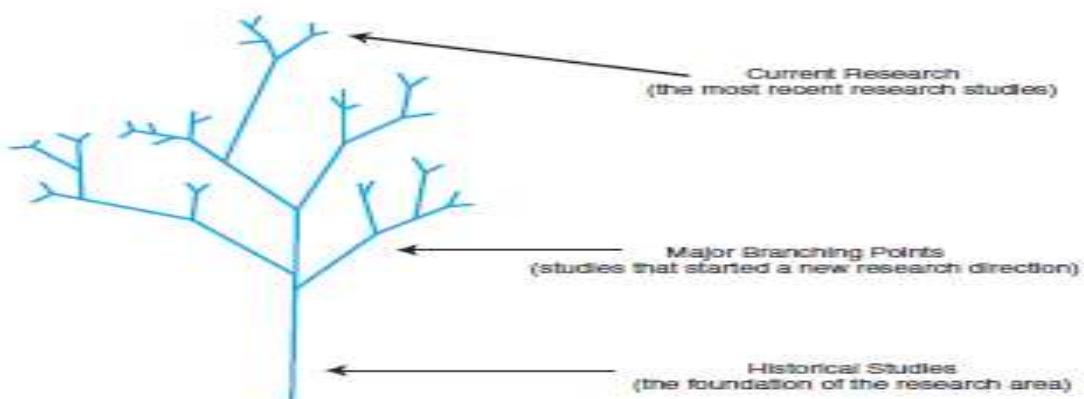
Feasibility (competent, access to data, cost, time, difficulties / lack of cooperation)

## **4. Constructing convincing research background**

This step requires you to do the following:

- a) Provide a foundation for further development of the proposal (overview the problem)
- b) Facilitate background information (systematic analysis and review of literature)
- c) State systematically why the research should be carried our (the rationale and the significance)
- d) Claiming importance by stating the formulation of research problem and providing evidence to support why the topic is important to study
- e) Making topic generalizations by providing statement about the state of the art
- f) Reviewing items of previous research. Synthesize relevant research to support the need to study the topic as the current studies perhaps not fully addressed the topic

*New research grows out of old*



**FIGURE 2.1 How New Research Grows Out of Old**

The tree-like structure emphasizes the notion that current research (the tips of the branches) is always based in previous research.

## **6. Identifying research scope and limitation**

*What is scope?*

Scope refers to how far the research area has explored and parameters in with the study will be operating in

The type of information to be included in the scope of a research project would include facts and theories about the subject of the study

*What to state in limitation?*

Always acknowledge a study's limitations. It is far better for you to identify and acknowledge your study's limitations than to have them pointed out by your professor and be graded down because you appear to have ignored them.

Keep in mind that acknowledgement of a study's limitations is an opportunity to make suggestions for further research. If you do connect your study's limitations to suggestions for further research, be sure to explain the ways in which these unanswered questions may become more focused because of your study

## **6. Avoiding plagiarism through similarity checker**

*All of the following are considered plagiarism:*

- turning in someone else's work as your own
- copying words or ideas from someone else without giving credit
- failing to put a quotation in quotation marks
- giving incorrect information about the source of a quotation
- copying the sentence structure of a source without giving credit
- copying ideas from a source that it makes up the majority of your work

ONLINE similarity checker

Recommended: Turnitin, iThenticate

Free: grammarly, plagiarismdetector, duplchecker, plagramme

## 7. Checking language using online tool

