

Rubric for Evaluating Research Proposals

PAPER # _____

(circle the appropriate box)

Category	Excellent	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Missing
	3	2	1	0
Research Question(s): 1. Should be a clearly stated, empirically answerable question 2. Should indicate type of data needed to answer the question 3. Should indicate the research logic needed to answer the question (e.g.: causality, correlation, description, etc.)	Includes all 3 elements, clearly stated or obvious and correct.	Includes elements 1 & 2, both clearly stated or obvious and correct.	Includes a question, perhaps not clearly stated or not empirically answerable, <u>OR</u> does not include any indication of the type of data needed or the research logic <u>OR</u> the latter are incorrect.	Research question is missing or so unclear as to be indecipherable
Significance: Should briefly explain: 1. Why the topic is important. 2. What the research will contribute to existing knowledge and/or to will benefit society.	Includes both elements, each clearly and convincingly stated.	Includes both elements, with at least one of them clear and convincing.	Includes no more than a nod to these elements, <u>OR</u> presents them but neither is clear and convincing.	No statement of why the research is significant
Literature Review: Should include: 1. A brief but targeted outline of what has previously been published on this topic, with references. 2. What remains unknown about the topic. 3. How answering the research question will help to fill in at least some of what is not currently known.	Includes a thorough literature review (at the undergraduate level). Clearly explains what remains unknown and how this research will expand knowledge.	Includes a reasonable literature review. Explains reasonably clearly what remains unknown and how this research will expand knowledge.	One of the three elements is missing, inadequate, or incomprehensible.	Two or more of the three elements are missing, inadequate, or incomprehensible.
References: 1. Should have references to support all statements and claims. 2. Should use a consistent reference style of your choice.	Thorough, complete, and easy to follow.	Complete and easy to follow	Less than complete &/or difficult to follow	Missing
Type(s) of data: 1. Should indicate the type(s) of data needed to answer the research question. 2. Should provide a rationale for each.	A clear statement of the type(s) of data needed, with convincing rationales for each. Each type helps answer the research question.	A statement of the type(s) of data needed, with rationales for each. Most types are needed help the research question.	An unclear or wandering statement of the type(s) of data needed, <u>OR</u> little or no rationale for some or all of the types.	No discussion of the type(s) of data needed to answer the research question.

Rubric for Evaluating Research Proposals

<p>Data gathering method(s): Should clearly identify:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The method(s) to be used for gathering the data. 2. How the methods will be applied. 3. Why those methods are appropriate and sufficient to gather the identified type(s) of data. 	Clearly describes the data gathering method(s) and how they will be applied. Clearly and convincingly describes why they are appropriate and sufficient for gathering for the identified type(s) of data.	All methods are stated and most are clearly described with a clear and convincing description of how they will be applied, <u>OR</u> methods are mostly but not completely sufficient &/or appropriate.	Stated methods and their application are not clearly described <u>AND</u> are not sufficient or appropriate for gathering the identified type(s) of data	No coherent description of data gathering methods.
<p>Data gathering site(s):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Should clearly identify the data collection site(s) or source(s) of data (if using secondary data analysis). 2. Provide a rationale for using the site(s). 	Clearly and thoroughly identifies data gathering sites/sources and provides convincing rationales for using them.	Identifies data gathering sites/sources and provides reasonable rationales for using them.	Identifies data gathering sites/sources without providing reasonable rationales for using them, <u>OR</u> chooses inappropriate sites/sources.	No coherent description of data gathering sites/sources
<p>Data analysis method(s):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe the method(s) to be used for analyzing the data. 2. Provide a rationale for using the method(s). 	Clearly and thoroughly identifies data analysis methods and provides convincing rationales for using them.	Identifies data analysis methods and provides reasonable rationales for using them.	Identifies data analysis methods without providing reasonable rationales for using them, <u>OR</u> chooses inappropriate methods.	No coherent description of data analysis.
<p>Ethical considerations: Should identify any ethical issues raised by this research and how they will be addressed.</p>	Clear and thorough description of ethical issues and the means for addressing them.	Reasonable description of ethical issues and the means for addressing them.	Unclear, partial, or inaccurate description of ethical issues and the means for addressing them	No description of ethical issues.
<p>Limitations: Should identify what the study <u>cannot</u> learn and the reasons for this.</p>	Clear and convincing description of the study's limitations and the reasons for them.	Clear description of the study's limitations and the reasons for them.	Unclear description of the study's limitations <u>OR</u> does not include convincing reasons for them.	No description of the study's limitations.
	3	2	1	0

NUMBER CIRCLED IN EACH COLUMN:

COLUMN SCORE (# circled x item score):

TOTAL SCORE:

Average Score (total/10)
