



EDUC 9973: RESEARCH PARADIGMS IN EDUCATION STUDIES DAY ONE

Nature and Function of Research Proposals

Readers' Expectations

Function of Rationale

A vertical decorative bar on the left side of the slide, featuring a gradient of colors (green, blue, purple) and a large, semi-transparent triangle pointing to the right, overlapping the bar and the main content area.

Nature and Function of Research Proposals

The research proposal is a document which develops an argument for undertaking a specific piece of research. It presents:

- What the proposed research is about (field of knowledge and specific topic)
- What it is trying to find out or achieve (aims and purposes)
- How the research project will do that (research methods and design)
- What will be learned from it (outcomes)
- Why that is worth learning (significance and contribution)
- As a finished product, it should stand alone; that is, it should make a clear and comprehensive, but succinct case for the proposed work, for reviewers who have not discussed the work with the researcher.



Readers' Expectations

Readers make two broad kinds of judgments about a research proposal:

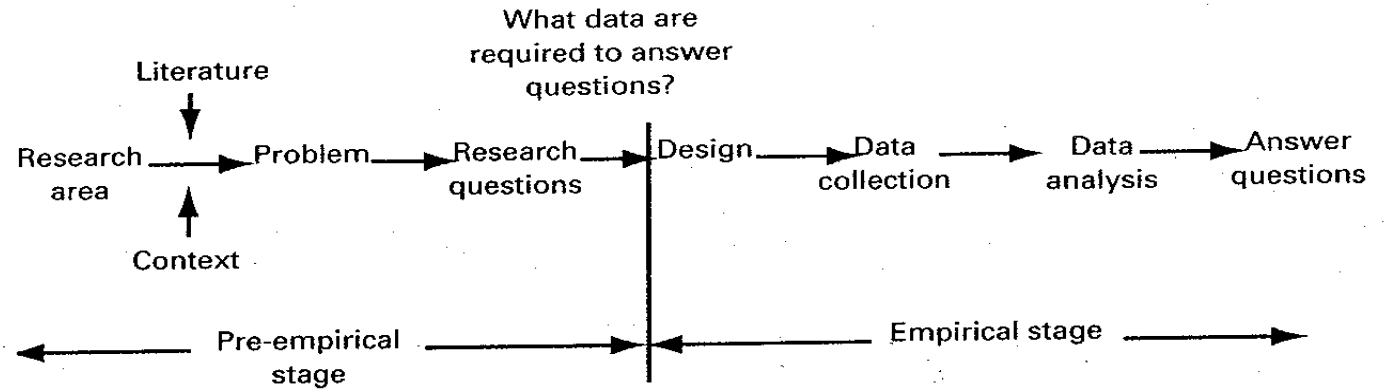
1. Specific technical judgments
 - What is the overall viability of the proposed study?
 - How appropriate is the design of the study?
 - Selected methodology appropriate to the research questions or research problem
 - Selection of participants
 - Processes of data collection and analysis
 - Quality control



2. General judgments:

- Is the proposed research feasible and 'doable'?
- Is the research worth doing?
- Can the candidate do it?
 - does the candidate have the skills and competence necessary?
 - will they be able to do it? (e.g. site access, demands on time, demands of current commitments)
- If it is done, will it produce a successful dissertation or thesis?

Research Proposal as a Plan





Function of Rationale

The Rationale introduces your research topic and justifies the proposed research.

Introduction

- What is your research about?

Area and topic

- What is the broad field of knowledge in which your research is located?
- What is the topic (not your research questions) of your research?
- Locate your topic in relation to present knowledge and practice.

A decorative vertical bar on the left side of the slide, featuring a gradient of colors (green, blue, purple) and a large, semi-transparent triangle pointing to the right.

Background and context

- How is your research located in the international, national state or local research context?
- You may draw on some of your literature review, particularly in relation to history, policy changes, curriculum reform, etc.

Statement of purpose (Aims)

- What do you hope to achieve through this research?
- Why is it worth doing?

A vertical decorative bar on the left side of the slide, featuring a colorful triangle pointing right at the top, with a gradient of colors including blue, purple, green, and yellow.

Significance of Research (Justification)

- What will your research contribute to knowledge, theory, policy or practice?
- How will it fill existing gaps in the field? (This may include some reference to the way in which you intend to carry out your research if it is innovative in the field)