

Your proposal paper should include four important pieces of information: 1. **The subject to be studied** (Your question, which should be focused and narrow); 2. **The subject's relevance** (Why is it important? Why should your reader care? Where does it fit into a larger, critical context?); 3. **Intended Paths for your Subject** (Where have you already done some research? Where do you think most of your research will come from? What outcomes do you expect to find, and why?); and 4. **Foreseeable Areas of Difficulty** (Where do you think you will have problems and how do you think you can overcome them?).

A research proposal argues for a project's significance and justifies a plan for completing it. You are making case that you have picked a topic on a real, debatable issue and have completed sufficient resource to suggest that you are prepared to do a bit more research before moving onto write the Unit 4 paper. For the issue to be "real" and "debatable," the Issue must be genuine, compelling, and pressing/

1. Introduction makes the case that investigation fulfills these criteria.
 - i. compelling
 1. impact could be serious and far-reaching or
 2. study will need to some significant and new understanding.
 - ii. PRESSING

Ignoring the issue will cause harm, perpetuate suffering or unnecessary delay progress
 - iii. Value of the project
 - a. Background information that illuminates the topic
 - b. Current historical events
2. Purpose (after introduction)
 - a. Defines the scope of the investigation.
 - b. Identifies what you hope to accomplish
 - c. Tells how you will achieve your goals
 - d. Tells what you hope your project will contribute:
 - i. Answer questions that haven't been answered or even thought of
 - ii. Weaknesses in previous articles or books on the same topic
 - iii. Discoveries/Research that has not been connected with this issue

REMEMBER YOU ARE ONLY EXPECTED TO INCH FORWARD (small contributions)
Provide insight that might provoke further study or conversation on the issue.

3. Literature Review:

Reveals the conversation / positions that already exist on the issue

Details “gaps” in the work or what the people who are looking at the issues may be ignoring. Maybe people who look at the subject from one side are failing to consider one area while people on another side are failing to adequately consider a different area; perhaps there is something that you see that both sides are failing to adequately consider. For example, the topic you are proposing is: Whether sufficient resources has been set aside for education, and neither side addresses how little or much of our gross national revenue is invested in education compared to those countries who are moving ahead of us in the studies.

Discusses works/resources in relationship one to the other. Look to your synthesis chart and compare and contrast their positions.

4. Research Methods:

The research methods section of the proposal identifies the question your study will attempt to answer (based on the gaps exposed by your literature review and explains the procedures you will follow in hopes of answering.

Research:

The databases you will use

Search terms you will use

Your guidelines for keeping or discarding sources

Your approach to analyzing these documents

5. Conclusion

Paragraph or two

Emphasize key points you made

Make the point about how promising your project could be

Answer the “so what?” question – convincing the reader your project matters