

ECI 709 Creativity and Critical Thinking

Please consider the following guidelines when completing your research proposal (either theoretical or empirical). The paper should be written in APA format, double-spaced, and 10 pages long (12pt. Times New Roman font).

Empirical Proposal

Abstract (100-150 words) (5pts.)

- Include an overall summary of the project as a whole. This includes the major questions to be addressed, a description of the approach and subjects, and the importance/implications of the study. This paragraph should be crisp and well-written. Clarity is important here. Avoid convoluted sentences.

Introduction (13 pts.)

- Introductory paragraph that introduces the problem and provides a roadmap for this first section. This includes a justification of why your study should be conducted and how it could contribute to the existing literature (2 pts.)
- Theoretical framework paragraphs (7 pts.)
- Include “Present Study” subsection (4 pts.) to include 1) a brief introduction to the methods 2) research questions and 3) hypotheses. Similar to your abstract, be sure that your research questions are clearly written and not convoluted. Hypotheses should be based upon previous research or related evidence/argumentation.

Methods (13 pts.)

- Participants (2 pts.)—Describe your sampling approach and characteristics of potential participants
- Description of materials & instruments (3 pts.)—Provide a description of items, reading materials, problem solving tasks, etc. including scoring methods. Make sure that it is apparent how your dependent measures will be operationalized for analysis procedures
- Procedures (4 pts.)—Clearly describe every step of your intervention or data collection procedures. Description should be clear enough for a reader to be able to replicate
- Research design and analyses (4 pts.)—Describe your proposed data analysis including potential statistical tests

Discussion (5 pts.)

- Describe implications (with possible directions for future research) of carrying out your study and also possible limitations associated with your design. Provide details on how potential findings would contribute to the motivation literature.

Appended Materials (4 pts.)

- References
- Tables and figures
- Samples of experimental materials (e.g. inventory)

Theoretical Paper

Abstract (100-150 words) (5pts.)

- Include an overall summary of the project as a whole. This includes the major questions to be addressed, a description of the approach and subjects, and the importance/implications of the study. This paragraph should be crisp and well-written. Clarity is important here. Avoid convoluted sentences.

Introduction (4 pts.)

- Introductory section that introduces the problem and provides a roadmap for the remainder of the paper. Clarity is also very important here as is your rationale – convincing the reader why this review is important (3 pts.)

Body of Paper (25 pts.)

- Review of prior research – These paragraphs should be well organized and clearly laid out (with subheadings). The writing should be clear and the findings should be summarized in an integrated manner across studies. You will be assessed here with regard to your ability to synthesize and integrate findings from various studies and report these findings in a clear manner.
- Future directions – This section should go beyond the existing body of literature and suggest areas for future research within your given topic. Organize sections by subheadings.

Discussion (4 pts.)

- Describe implications of research in your given area and also provide a summary of what has been reviewed.

Appended Materials (2 pts.)

- References