



Sigma Theta Tau Research Proposal Guidelines

1. Title and Abstract.

A title page and one-hundred word abstract are to accompany the proposal. The abstract should include the hypothesis, the specific variables and their measurements, the population and sample description and a statement of the design and analysis.

2. Proposal Outline.

The following areas are to be included in a proposal. American Psychological Association or style of documentation preferred.

Empirical Research Proposal

Part I. The Problem.

- Statement of the problem or research question.
- Hypotheses.
- Definitions of variables. Theoretical and operational definitions (instruments).
- Theoretical framework and population.
- Significance to nursing science.

Part II. Methodology.

- Design.
- Instrument reliability and validity.
- Data collection procedure. Include official human subjects reviews if conducted and a consent form.
- Sample, size and sampling procedure.
- Method of analysis.

Part III. Bibliography and Appendixes.

- Bibliography or reference list.
- Include letters, forms and instruments in the appendixes.
- Investigator(s) curriculum vitae.

Part IV. Budget. Detail the amount requested.

- Personnel.
- Supplies.
- Equipment.
- Travel.
- Computer.
- Other.

Historical Research Proposal

I. Author's Competency.

- Has formal preparation in historical research? (Especially important to ensure checks of validity and reliability of data.)
- Has knowledge about the time period(s) involved in the proposed study?
- Has knowledge about pertinent field related to the proposed study? (e.g., economics, philosophy, anthropology)

II. Subject to be Studied.

- Is it unique, or is it an outgrowth of history already written?
- Is there justification for the study?
- Is the planned scope of the subject precise and clearly defined in the title? (There is generally no problem statement developed for a historical research study.)
- Is there a possibility that it will serve as a foundation for further study?
- Is it of reasonable, manageable scope?

III. Sources.

- Has a preliminary bibliography been included?
- Have repositories of data been listed?
- Is there evidence that the researcher will have access to additional potential repositories of data?
- Are sources balanced? (e.g., primary vs. secondary, government vs. private, professional vs. lay.)
- If the oral history is to be conducted, is a sample legal release to establish right to handle, disseminate and publish interview material included?

IV. Approach.

- Is tentative outline organized so that it develops according to recognizable plan/framework/design?
- Are questions posed which will elicit the essential elements of the subject? (e.g., ones that ask what, when, how, why, where, and what of it)?
- Will topic be developed within a sufficiently full context? (e.g., cultural, social and temporal milieu.)

V. Writing Style.

- Does it demonstrate a clear, exact and interesting style?
- Does it demonstrate ability to organize and logically articulate ideas?

VI. Funding Request

- Are the terms of funding consistent with scholarly integrity?
- Is the allocation of funds consistent with the goals of the research? ■

Historical Research References

Christy, T. "The Methodology of Historical Research."

Nursing Research, May-June, 1975, 189-192.

Editorial. "The Case for Historical Research in Nursing."

Nursing Research, November-December, 1972, 483.

Moss, W. **Oral History Program Manual**. New York:

Praeger, 1974.

Newton, M. "The case for Historical Research." **Nursing**

Research, Winter, 1965. 20-6.

Prepared by Heritage Committee

Sigma Theta Tau International

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