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Statement of the problem example for research proposal pdf

Research proposal problem statement sample.

The statement of the problem is one of the first things that a colleague or potential client will read. With the vastness of the information available at one's fingertips in the online9 world, your work may have just a few seconds to draw in a reader to take a deeper look at your proposal before moving on to the next option. It explains quickly to the reader, the problem at hand, the need for research, and how you intend to do it. A strong, clear description of the problem that drew you to your research has to be straightforward, easy to read and, most important, relevant. Why do you care about this problem? How can solving this problem impact the world? The problem statement is your opportunity to explain why you care and what you propose to do in the way of researching the problem. A problem statement is an explanation in research that describes the issue that is in need of study. What problem is the research attempting to address? Having a Problem Statement allows the reader to quickly understand the purpose and intent of the research. The importance of writing your research proposal cannot be stressed enough. Check for more information on Writing a Scientific Research Project Proposal. It is expected to be brief and concise, and should not include the findings of the research or detailed data. The average length of a research statement is generally about one page. It is going to define the problem, which can be thought of as a gap in the information base. There may be several solutions to this gap or lack of information, but that is not the concern of the problem statement. Its purpose is to summarize the current information and where a lack of knowledge may be presenting a problem that needs to be investigated. The purpose of the problem statement is to identify the issue that is a concern and focus it in a way that allows it to be studied in a systematic way. It defines the problem and proposes a way to research a solution, or demonstrates why further information is needed in order for a solution to become possible. What is Included in a Problem Statement? Besides identifying the gap of understanding or the weakness of necessary data, it is important to explain the significance of this lack. -How will your research contribute to the existing knowledge base in your field of study? -How is it significant? -Why does it matter? Not all problems have only one solution so demonstrating the need for additional research can also be included in your problem statement. Once you identify the problem and the need for a solution, or further study, then you can show how you intend to collect the needed data and present it. How to Write a Statement of Problem in Research Proposal It is helpful to begin with your goal. What do you see as the achievable goal if the problem you outline is solved? How will the proposed research theoretically change anything?

What are the potential outcomes? Then you can discuss how the problem prevents the ability to reach your realistic and achievable solution. It is what stands in the way of changing an issue for the better. Talk about the present state of affairs and how the problem impacts a person's life, for example. It's helpful at this point to generally layout the present knowledge and understanding of the subject at hand, before then describing the gaps of knowledge that are currently in need of study.
Your problem statement is a proposed solution to address one of these gaps. A good problem statement will also layout the repercussions of leaving the problem as it currently stands. What is the significance of not addressing this problem? What are the possible future outcomes? Example of Problem Statement in Research Proposal If, for example, you intended to research the effect of vitamin D supplementation on the immune system, you would begin with a review of the current knowledge of vitamin D's known function in relation to the immune system and how a deficiency of it impacts a person's defenses. You would describe the ideal environment in the body when there is a sufficient level of vitamin D. Then, begin to identify the problems associated with vitamin D deficiency and the difficulty of raising the level through supplementation, along with the consequences of that deficiency. Here you are beginning to identify the problem of a common deficiency and the current difficulty of increasing the level of vitamin D in the blood. At this stage, you may begin to identify the problem and narrow it down in a way that is practical to a research project. Perhaps you are proposing a novel way of introducing Vitamin D in a way that allows for better absorption by the gut, or in a combination with another product that increases its level in the blood. Describe the way your research in this area will contribute to the knowledge base on how to increase levels of vitamin D in a specific group of subjects, perhaps menopausal women with breast cancer. The research proposal is then described in practical terms. How to write a problem statement in research? Problem statements differ depending on the type and topic of research and vary between a few sentences to a few paragraphs. However, the problem statement should not drag on needlessly. Despite the absence of a fixed format, a good research problem statement usually consists of three main parts: Context: This section explains the background for your research. It identifies the problem and describes an ideal scenario that could exist in the absence of the problem. It also includes any past attempts and shortcomings at solving the problem.

Significance: This section defines how the problem prevents the ideal scenario from being achieved, including its negative impacts on the society or field of research. It should include who will be the most affected by a solution to the problem, the relevance of the study that you are proposing, and how it can contribute to the existing body of research.
Here is a cheat sheet to help you with formulating a good problem statement.
1. Begin with a clear indication that the problem statement is going to be discussed next. You can start with a generic sentence like, "The problem that this study addresses…" This will inform your readers of what to expect next. 2. Next, mention the consequences of not solving the problem. You can touch upon who is or will be affected if the problem continues, and how. 3. Conclude with indicating the type of research/information that is needed to solve the problem. Be sure to reference authors who may have suggested the necessity of such research. This will then directly lead to your proposed research objective and workplan and how that is expected to solve the problem i.e., close the research gap.

Language Editing Plus Elsevier Language Editing Plus service will provide you with a thorough language review of your thesis, article or presentation. It offers review of logic and flow, reference checks, document formatting, a customized cover letter and more. A problem statement is a concise and concrete summary of the research problem you seek to address. It should: Contextualize the problem. What do we already know? Describe the exact issue your research will address. What do we still need to know? Show the relevance of the problem.
Why do we need to know more about this? Set the objectives of the research. What will you do to find out more? When should you write a problem statement? There are various situations in which you might have to write a problem statement. In the business world, writing a problem statement is often the first step in kicking off an improvement project. In this case, the problem statement is usually a stand-alone document. In academic research, writing a problem statement can help you contextualize and understand the significance of your research problem. It is often several paragraphs long, and serves as the basis for your research proposal. Alternatively, it can be condensed into just a few sentences in your introduction. A problem statement looks different depending on whether you're dealing with a practical, real-world problem or a theoretical issue.

Research proposal

TOPIC

The major problems and challenges encountered in Addis Ababa road projects.

Research Problem Statement

Briefing the major problems and challenges on the status of Addis Ababa road projects.

Few problems encountered in road construction include

- Design change:- occur when the client wants to reduce or upgrade the quality of the road because of financial status
- Right of way:- due to design change
- Delay:-   due to unforeseen obstacles in implementing the design
             Shortage of specified material
- Dispute :- if the design is difficult to implement by the contractor
             Intended mark cannot finish on time, quality and cost

Research question

- What is the history of road construction in Addis Ababa?
- What are the major problems encountered in Addis Ababa road projects?
- How do we assess the major problems and challenges encountered during pre construction and implementation stages of Addis Ababa road projects?
- What is the extent of the major problems and challenges which will lead to arousal of dispute?

Regardless, all problem statements follow a similar process. Step 1: Contextualize the problem The problem statement should frame your research problem, giving some background on what is already known. Practical research problems For practical research, focus on the concrete details of the situation: Where and when does the problem arise? Who does the problem affect? What attempts have been made to solve the problem? ExampleVoter turnout in the Southeast has been decreasing steadily over the past ten years, in contrast to other areas of the country. According to surveys conducted by local nonprofits, turnout is lowest among those under 25 years of age. There have been some effective attempts at engaging these groups in other regions, and in the last two elections, major parties increased their campaigning efforts. However, these interventions have yet to have any significant effect on turnout.

FACULTY OF ARTS
UNIVERSITY OF MALTA

MPhil/PhD candidature – Research proposal template

The detailed research proposal should be at least 1000 words long but exceed 5000 words (excluding the list of sources cited and bibliography) be presented in the format suggested below.

Please remember that:

- The principal criteria for the award of a PhD are that the research constitutes a significant contribution to knowledge in a particular field of study and that it includes evidence of originality.

- The proposal is about identifying a viable topic and a plan of approach following the research proposal template below. You need to show that a considerable amount of reading around the subject has been carried out.

Research proposal template

1. **Working title:**
   - Provide a working title that describes the nature and scope of the research project.

2. **Statement on topic, aims, rationale:**
   - Identify the general subject area and outline how your topic relates to the field.
   - Establish why it is a significant topic and what contribution your work is expected to make.
   - Identify a working hypothesis where appropriate.

3. **Situating the research:**
   - This part of the proposal, often referred to as a literature review, should anchor your research topic in the particular area of academic discourse pertinent to the field.
   - In order to demonstrate that the research project makes a significant contribution to the field, you need to show that you are aware of the traditions and recent research in the field.
   - If you want to take up a theoretical position or specific concepts, identify which stands and concepts are useful and how you will apply them to achieve a particular result or reach particular conclusions.

Theoretical research problems For theoretical research, think about the scientific, social, geographical and/or historical background: What is already known about the problem? Is the problem limited to a certain time period or geographical area? How has the problem been defined and debated in the scholarly literature? ExampleIn the past ten years, the "gig economy" has become an increasingly important segment of the labor market. People under 30 are now more likely to engage in freelance arrangements (rather than full-time jobs) than in the past. Research on the reasons for and consequences of this shift has focused on objective measures of income, working hours, and employment conditions. However, there has been little work exploring young people's subjective experiences of the gig economy. Professional editors proofread and edit your paper by focusing on: Academic style Vague sentences Grammar Style consistency See an example Step 2: Show why it matters The problem statement should also address the relevance of the research. Why is it important that the problem is addressed? Don't worry, this doesn't mean you have to do something groundbreaking or world-changing. It's more important that the problem is researchable, feasible, and clearly addresses a relevant issue in your field. Practical research problems Practical research is directly relevant to a specific problem that affects an organization, institution, social group, or society more broadly. To make it clear why your research problem matters, you can ask yourself: What will happen if the problem is not solved? Who will feel the consequences? Does the problem have wider relevance? Are similar issues found in other contexts? ExampleLow voter turnout has been shown to have negative associations with overall civic engagement. It is becoming an area of increasing concern in many European democracies. When specific groups of citizens lack political representation, they are likely to become more excluded over time, leading to an erosion of trust in democratic institutions. Addressing this problem will have practical benefits for the Southeastern US as well, and will contribute to understanding of this widespread phenomenon. Theoretical research problems Sometimes theoretical issues have clear practical consequences, but sometimes their relevance is less immediately obvious. To identify why the problem matters, ask: How will resolving the problem advance understanding of the topic? What benefits will it have for future research? Does the problem have direct or indirect consequences for society? ExampleLiterature on the gig economy characterizes these new forms of employment sometimes as a flexible, active choice and sometimes as an exploitative last resort. To gain a fuller understanding of why young people engage in the gig economy, in-depth qualitative research is required. Focusing on workers' experiences can help develop more robust theories of flexibility in contemporary employment, as well as potentially informing future policy objectives. Step 3: Set your aims and objectives Finally, the problem statement should frame how you intend to address the problem. Your goal here should not be to find a conclusive solution, but rather to propose more effective approaches to tackling or understanding it. The research aim is the overall purpose of your research. It is generally written in the infinitive form: The aim of this study is to determine… This project aims to explore… This research aims to investigate… The research objectives are the concrete steps you will take to achieve the aim: Qualitative methods will be used to identify… This work will use surveys to collect… Using statistical analysis, the research will measure… Practical research aims and objectivesThe aim of this research is to investigate effective engagement strategies to increase voter turnout in the Southeast. It will identify the most significant factors in non-voting using surveys and interviews, followed by conducting experiments to measure the effectiveness of different strategies. Theoretical research aims and objectivesThis project aims to better understand young people's experiences in the gig economy. Qualitative methods will be used to gain in-depth insight into the motivations and perceptions of those under 30 engaged in freelance work across various industries.

This data will be contextualized with a review of recent literature on the gig economy and statistical analysis of demographic changes in the workforce. The aims and objectives should lead directly to your research questions. Learn how to formulate research questions Problem statement example You can use these steps to write your own problem statement, like the example below. Problem statement example Step 1: Contextualize the problem A family-owned shoe manufacturer has been in business in New England for several generations, employing thousands of local workers in a variety of roles, from assembly to supply-chain to customer service and retail.

Employee tenure in the past always had an upward trend, with the average employee staying at the company for 10+ years. However, in the past decade, the trend has reversed, with some employees lasting only a few months, and others leaving abruptly after many years. Step 2: Show why it matters As the perceived loyalty of their employees has long been a source of pride for the company, they employed an outside consultant firm to see why there was so much turnover. The firm focused on the new hires, concluding that a rival shoe company located in the next town offered higher hourly wages and better "perks," such as pizza parties. They claimed this was what was leading employees to switch. However, to gain a fuller understanding of why the turnover persists even after the consultant study, in-depth qualitative research focused on long-term employees is also needed.

Focusing on why established workers leave can help develop a more telling reason why turnover is so high, rather than just due to salaries.

It can also potentially identify points of change or conflict in the company's culture that may cause workers to leave. Step 3: Set your aims and objectives This project aims to better understand why established workers choose to leave the company. Qualitative methods such as surveys and interviews will be conducted comparing the views of those who have worked 10+ years at the company and chose to stay, compared with those who chose to leave.

Other interesting articles If you want to know more about the research process, methodology, research bias, or statistics, make sure to check out some of our other articles with explanations and examples. Frequently asked questions about problem statements How do I write a research objective? Once you've decided on your research objectives, you need to explain them in your paper, at the end of your problem statement. Keep your research objectives clear and concise, and use appropriate verbs to accurately convey the work that you will carry out for each one. Example: Verbs for research objectivesI will assess … I will compare … I will calculate … If you want to cite this source, you can copy and paste the citation or click the "Cite this Scribbr article" button to automatically add the citation to our free Citation Generator. McCombes, S. & George, T. (2023, May 31). How to Write a Problem Statement | Guide & Examples. Scribbr. Retrieved July 10, 2023, from