

**[Title of your Paper]** (paper must be original for this class, not something turned in before)

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**[Title of Paper] (same title as on title page above)**

This first section is the introduction portion of the paper. Without an elaborate introduction, the experimenter will leave his or her readers wondering what exactly the purpose of the experiment is. The introduction explains in detail several components of the experiment that must be included in any proposal. After reading the introduction, the reader should conclude **why the experimenter is conducting the research and how this research will affect the academic community and society at large.** For this paragraph in particular, it is sufficient to grab the reader's attention and introduce the topic at hand.

**Statement of the Problem**

The "Statement of the Problem" is an imperative part of the proposal, for in order for research to be conducted, one must notice a problem in the existing literature that has not been previously addressed. For this section, the following questions should be answered: Why does this research study need to be conducted? What *specific* issues does this study raise that have not been observed in other literature pertaining to the topic? End this section with a sentence saying "The purpose of this study is..." Clearly identify the goal of the study in one precise sentence. For example, the sentence could look like this: "the purpose of this study is to determine whether x is an effective treatment intervention for major depressive disorder" or "the purpose of this study is to test which persuasive technique is more effective in getting someone to adopt a vegetarian diet."

**Method*****Participants***

This section should include an expanded discussion of the sample. First, discuss the sample under consideration (e.g. adults with diabetes). From where will participants be selected (e.g., in schools)? Second, list the elements that will be characteristic of the sample, such as sex, age, ethnicity, etc.

### ***Research Design***

Include the proposed research design of the study- whether it is a survey, experiment, observation, secondary data of analysis, etc. Then, explain how this design will gather results. Briefly discuss how the data will be collected, including how the subjects will participate in the study (ex. An online survey versus an in-person study).

### ***Measures***

In this paragraph, briefly outline the instruments that will be used in the study. Give the name of the instrument, the type of instrument (such as surveys, interviews, or observational measures), and what independent or dependent variable it is going to measure. For example, the PTSD checklist (PCL) is a 20-item self-report measure to assess the independent variable of posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) symptom severity.

### ***Discussion***

This section is often labeled “Significance of the Study.” The Discussion focuses on the implications of the proposed study, such as how the study’s results will affect future research, theory development, counseling practices, public policy, etc. Therefore, write this section with the focus on how the study’s results will benefit others. Identify any weaknesses to the proposed study and why they were not addressed. Address how well the study discusses the implications of the study, limitations, and scholarly/future research.

**References**

Pajares, F. (2007). Elements of a proposal. Emory University. Retrieved from  
<http://www.des.emory.edu/mfp/proposal.html>