# Initial Research Proposal

[Proposed title of the project]

[Your name]

[Your supervisor’s name]

[Program]

[Department]

[Institution]

[Date]

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# Introduction

The introduction should include the following elements:

# Background and Context

Lead the reader into the topic and scope of your research.

# Problem Statement

Describe the theoretical or practical research problem that you want to address. What is already known about the problem? What is missing from current knowledge?

# Research Questions

State the specific question(s) that you aim to answer.

# Relevance and Importance of the Research

Make it clear what new insights you will contribute, who they are relevant to, and why the research is worth doing.

# Literature review

The literature review summarizes, compares and critiques the most relevant scholarly sources on the topic. There are many different ways to structure a literature review, but it should explore:

# Key Concepts, Theories and Studies

Compare, contrast, and establish the theories and concepts that will be most important for your project.

# Key Debates and Controversies

Identify points of conflict and situate your own position.

# Gaps in Existing Knowledge

Show what is missing and how your project will fit in.

# Research design and methods

Here you should explain your approach to the research and describe exactly what steps you will take to answer your questions.

# Research design

Explain how you will design the research. Qualitative or quantitative? Original data collection or primary/secondary sources? Descriptive, correlational or experimental?

# Methods and Sources

Describe the tools, procedures, participants and sources of the research. When, where and how will you collect, select and analyze data?

# Practical Considerations

Address any potential obstacles, limitations and ethical or practical issues. How will you plan for and deal with problems?

# Implications and contributions to knowledge

Finish the proposal by emphasizing why your proposed project is important and what it will contribute to practice or theory.

# Practical Implications

Will your findings help improve a process, inform policy, or make a case for concrete change?

# Theoretical Implications

Will your work help strengthen a theory or model, challenge current assumptions, or create a basis for further research?

# References

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# Research schedule

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| **Research phase** | **Objectives** | **Deadline** |
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