

The Parts of a Thesis Proposal

Title Page: Proposed title, student's name, complete address, phone number, and tech. ID#.

1st Part—Introduction and Problem Statement:

- The problem or topic to be studied: explain, define, and offer examples.
- The importance of the problem, and need for the study: the effects on crime, victims, the community, the criminal justice system, and on offenders.
- Purpose of the Study: what you intend to explore or examine; state as research questions that you can answer, using some research method(s).
- Number of pages: 1-2 pages may adequately cover this part.

2nd Part—Review of the Literature:

- Textbook authors' definition and discussion of this problem and topic.
- Previous studies on this problem and topic, according to research reports published in academic, research journals.
- Government responses to this problem and topic, as published in government agency publications, and on Internet websites.
- Criminal justice agency responses and recommendations, according to trade journals, and popular news media publications and periodicals.
- Historical trends related to the problem or topic.
- Legal, policy, and social issues related to the topic.
- Research Methods used in previous studies, and research findings.
- Conclusions and recommendations of authors of previous research.
- Number of pages: 3-5 pages may cover this part.

3rd Part—Proposed Research Method(s):

- Research questions to be answered by this research (repeat from 1st Part).
- How you intend to gather information or data to answer these questions (may specify a "research method" here).
- Refer to the list of research methods on the yellow Sr. Thesis sign-up form. Briefly define and explain your proposed method(s).
- Specify a location, a CJS agency, & CJS professionals you intend to visit (may specify a proposed "sample" and how you will select that "sample").
- Specify a source of criminal justice data on which you may do a secondary analysis and discussion of the crime or justice agency statistics.
- Specify how you might analyze and report the information or data that are to be collected and discussed.
- Each student's proposed research method will vary according to the proposed criminal justice problem or topic to be studied. A "qualitative" method such as historical or legal research may be more appropriate for some topics.
- Number of pages: the proposed method could be covered in 1 page.

Reference Page:

List all references cited in your proposal, in alphabetical order and following the ASA reference style explained in Johnson, et al. (2005) listed below, OR the style used in *Justice Quarterly* journal.

Your proposed research method(s) should be documented by citing one or more of the research methods textbooks that you have used in your courses, as listed below.

- Bachman, R. and R.K. Schutt. 2003. The Practice of Research in Criminology and Criminal Justice (2nd ed.) Thousand Oaks, CA: Pine Forge Press.
- Galvan, J. 2004. Writing Literature Reviews. (2nd ed.) Los Angeles: Pyczak Publishing
- Hagan, F. 2000. Research Methods in Criminal Justice and Criminology (5th ed.) Boston: Allyn and Bacon.
- Johnson, W.A., R.P. Retig, G.M. Scot, and S.M. Garrison. 2005. The Criminal Justice Student Writer's Manual (3rd ed.) Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice-Hal.
- Leedy, P. and J. Elis Ormrod. 2001. Practical Research: Planning and Design. (7th ed.) Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice-Hal.
- Maxfield, M.G. and E. Babbie. 2006. Basics of Research Methods for Criminal Justice and Criminology (1st ed.) Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Thomson Learning.
- Maxfield, M. and E. Babbie. 2005. Research Methods for Criminal Justice and Criminology. (4th ed.). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Thomson Learning.