

RESEARCH TITLE SELECTION

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The ability to choose, develop, and determine a good research topic is an important skill that every researcher needs to master. Selecting a significant research topic within a field of study is essential not only for producing good writing but also crucial to ensuring a smooth research process. While it's possible for a supervisor to suggest a topic within a specific field of study, typically, supervisors ask candidates to choose a topic of their interest first. This is because the research to be conducted is the candidate's own; the supervisor's responsibility is to guide the candidate through the research process.

Hence, the importance of writing a good research proposal is significant as it can help alleviate the burden of conducting the research. However, by mastering a few important steps, the process of choosing the right research topic can be quick and easy. There are two (2) crucial steps:

1. The chosen topic must be relevant within the field of interest.

It should be remembered that the chosen topic must be relevant within the field of interest. In other words, the topic should be worth investigating. Many sources can serve as inspiration for generating ideas for selecting a research topic, including theories, past studies, observation of current trends or patterns. Therefore, researchers need to observe to get an overview of the scenario unfolding in the chosen research field. It is also essential to note issues that could spark creative thinking, such as researching current situations through newspapers, annual reports of relevant organizations, and so forth.

Researchers need to create a long list of all possible choices before starting the selection process. A crucial and easy step for researchers is to conduct brainstorming sessions to assess the best topic options for actual research. Assuming all explored ideas are on the table, the candidate can then narrow down the choices one by one for thorough investigation before making a suitable selection. It's advisable to find something that is both interesting and feasible for exploration, but researchers need not worry if the topic choice slightly pushes them out of their comfort zone.

Furthermore, the two guiding principles for selecting a research topic are interest and the feasibility of conducting the research.

2. The scope of the topic should be specific and align with the chosen field of study.

The combination of sub-topics explored during the brainstorming process might be a suitable choice to derive the best topic for the candidate. A common mistake made by researchers is being too specific at the initial stage. If the chosen topic is too broad, it might be challenging to find focused and relevant information; conversely, if the topic is too narrow, it might be difficult to find any information at all.

Therefore, a method that can be applied to gain a clear picture of the combination of ideas and sub-ideas is by using mind maps and concept maps. However, if it's still not possible to obtain a clear and specific scope, this step needs to be carefully executed where the combination of sub-topics and interests is crucial to ensure the best topic selection.

The intention to start writing a research proposal using the final chosen idea might save time; however, the time spent reaching that stage will assist the researcher throughout the process, hence it's better not to rush. Start by selecting a very broad subject, and the broader, the better.

The next step will solidify your idea and bring you closer to the final proposed topic. Once decided to write about a particular subject, various aspects need due attention, such as adequate rest, discussions with fellow students, and the supervisor.