

“Dr T’s tips” on writing a Research Protocol – A General Outline

Section headings and Subheadings can be useful to organize the information.

1. Title of Study and List of Investigators:

The title of this Noble Prize Research Project is.

Dr. Smith
Principal Investigator
Department/Affiliation

Dr. Brown
Associate Investigator
Department/Affiliation

2. Background/ Significance/ Review of the Literature

- Explain the issue you are examining and why it is significant.
- Describe the general area to be studied.
- A description of what is already known about this area.
- Discuss several critical studies that have already been done in this area.
- Point out why these background studies are insufficient. In other words, what question(s) do they leave unresolved that you would like to study?

3. Research questions or Hypotheses or purpose statement or specific aims

4. Method and Design

A description of how you will go about collecting data and test the hypothesis or answer the questions you are examining.

Looking at journal articles to determine what methods are commonly used within your topic area is a good way to start selecting a design.

Method: How would you collect the data and why?

- Describe the general methodology you chose for your study
- Subjects: Who would you study? How many? Why?
- Are there any Subjects you would exclude? Why, why not?
- Describe what kinds of manipulations/variations you would make or test for, in order to test your hypothesis/es.

- Or if a medical records study..... What variables (data points) would you collect?
- Explain what significant differences you would need to find to confirm or disconfirm your hypothesis/es.
- Controls: What kinds of factors would you need to control for in your study?

Procedure

- What is the Subject in the study going to do?

Analysis

- How will you analyze the results?
- What kind of results would *confirm* or *disconfirm* your hypothesis

5. Data Safety

How will you protect and store the data:

- During data collection,
- After data collection,
- After the study is completed?

6. References

- Provide a minimum of 4-10 references that show you have completed a recent “review of the literature.”
- All citations in paper should be referenced.
- Source for all data collection tools, instruments, surveys etc., should be referenced.

7. Data Collection Tool

- Provide copy of the Questionnaire, instrument, data collection form.
- Provide a list of definitions for each data element or variable you will collect