

Sample Outline

Making an outline can help you avoid the agony of working your way through a large number of drafts and will help you end up with a better, more logically structured end-product in a less-stressful manner. A brief one to two page outline can help save you both time and money. The Office of Research Services (ORS) has provided a sample format for outlining research proposals below.

I. Background

- Provide only that background material which is relevant to the proposed project.
- (Refer to pertinent references in the your literature cited section.)

II. Critical Evaluation of Existing Knowledge

III. Gaps Which Project is Intended to Fill

IV. Importance and Relevance (Relate broad, long-term objectives to specific aims)

- Specific Aim 1 will ... toward the broad, long-term objectives. The relevance is...
- Specific Aim 2 will ... toward the broad, long-term objectives. The relevance is...
- Specific Aim 3 will...toward the broad, long-term objectives. The relevance is...