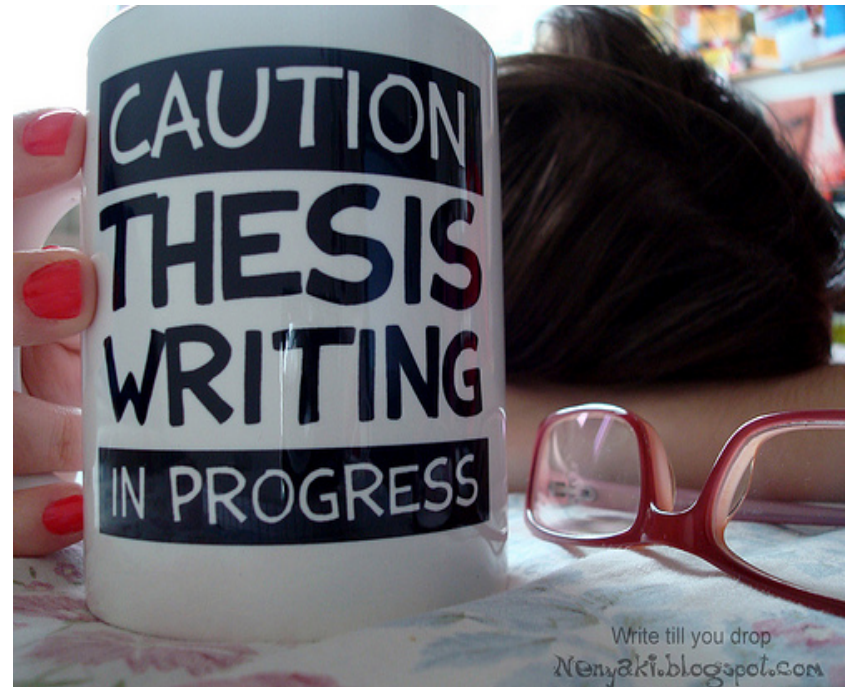




Preparing for your Thesis Proposal – An Introduction

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Introduction



Learning outcomes

1. Identify a feasible research project
2. Establish the theoretical basis for the thesis topic
3. Develop/propose a research design incorporating appropriate research methodology
4. Show awareness of practical issues underpinning the proposal, and research in general, e.g. Ethics, access, sample sizes (where relevant) and timeline

Taught Sessions

- ▶ Theme 1
- ▶ Introduction-
- ▶ Areas of interest- getting a good question
- ▶ Where to start?
- ▶ What is a thesis proposal?

Taught Sessions

Day 1 Part 2

- ▶ Reviewing the Literature
- ▶ Research Design and methods

Taught Sessions

Day 2 part 1

- ▶ Presentations and feedback
- ▶ Theoretical perspectives
- ▶ Safeguarding
- ▶ Ethics and Practicalities

Why do research?



What is a
thesis
proposal?



A research proposal

- ▶ Describes what your research is about (what question(s) it is trying to answer)
- ▶ Explains:
 - ▶ How will it answer those questions
 - ▶ What we will learn from it and why it is worth learning

(Punch, 2006)

Getting a Good Question



??????

An deductive approach to research design

- ▶ Research area
- ▶ Research topic
- ▶ General research questions
- ▶ Specific research questions
- ▶ Methodological questions
- ▶ Data collection questions



An example research area – SELECTIVE EDUCATION



Possible topics

- ▶ Different criteria/ strategies for selection
- ▶ Impact of selection on achievement

General and Specific Questions

General

- ▶ What is the impact of selection on the achievement of children from different backgrounds?

Specific

- ▶ What is the relationship between type of school attended, socio-economic status and achievement?

What data are required to answer the question?

- ▶ Questionnaires
- ▶ Interviews
- ▶ Reflective logs
- ▶ Journals
- ▶ observation

Your research areas and topics

- ▶ Creativity - global trends for student performance versus Wales' priorities for its nation state?
- ▶ Leadership: the impact of systematic leadership practices
- ▶ Creating autonomous learners
- ▶ What is good mentoring?
- ▶ Aspects of Digital Learning
- ▶ Maintaining wellbeing and Mental Health
- ▶ Priorities for the Foundation Phase in Wales

General and Specific Questions





Why is this piece of research worth doing?

The “so what?” question

- ▶ What (new) will we learn from it?
- ▶ Why is that worth learning?

Possible Structure of the Thesis Proposal

- ▶ Introduction (500 words)
- ▶ Succinct review of the most relevant literature (up to 3,000 words)
 - ▶ Useful to conclude this section with the main research question- which should leap out as addressing a gap in research/ knowledge
- ▶ Research Design and Methodology (c2000 words)
 - ▶ Will include sub-questions, etc.
- ▶ Ethics and Practicalities (500-1000 words)

Additional learning – ‘Flipped Classroom’ 😊

- ▶ Read Punch and Boote and Beile (2005)

Scholars Before Researchers: On the Centrality of the Dissertation Literature Review in Research Preparation
(See attachment)

- ▶ Make a first attempt at your general research questions and identify some potential specific research questions within that.

References

- ▶ Boote, D. and Beile, P. (2005) Scholars before Researchers: On the Centrality of the Dissertation Literature Review in Research Preparation *Educational Researcher*, 34, 6. 3-15
- ▶ (<http://edr.sagepub.com.ezproxy.bangor.ac.uk/content/34/6.toc>)
- ▶ Punch, K. (2016) *Developing Effective Research Proposals* (3rd Edition) London: Sage