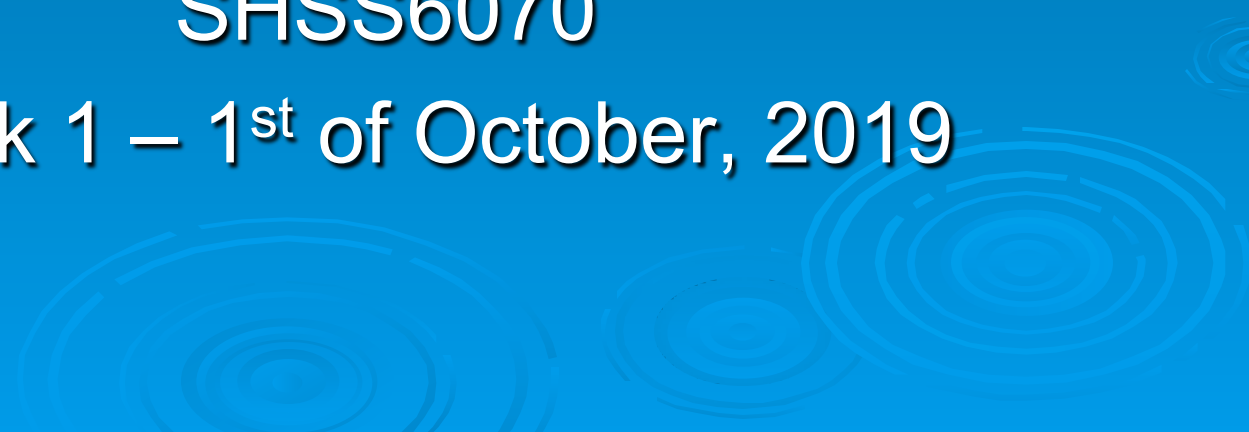


Writing Your Dissertation Proposal

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SHSS6070

Week 1 – 1st of October, 2019

The background of the slide is a solid blue color. In the bottom right corner, there are several faint, concentric circles that resemble ripples in water, creating a decorative effect.

Proposal Marking Criteria:

- Introduction and rationale for proposed study (utilising relevant and appropriate literature) 30%
- Clear identification of the aims of the study. 10%
- Outline of proposed methodology for the study - providing a strong rationale for the choices made. 30%
- Identification of data analysis methods to be used. 20%
- Outline of proposed timetable for the completion of the sections of the dissertation. 10%

Introduction and rationale for proposed study

(utilising relevant and appropriate literature)
30% of the available mark

What resources should you be using?

Where have you got your question from?

This **MUST** have come from the research –
NOT the other way around!

Rationale

- Is it clear why your project needs to be carried out?
- Is it evident why it is important / will add to current research?
- Who will the results of each study be useful for?
- Can you think of anyone else who has not been considered that the results may be useful for? Make a note of these people.

Task:

- In small groups:
- Briefly introduce your research question...
- Discuss your rationale for your study...
- Why is this worthy of study?...evidence for this?
- Make notes of the key reasons why this is important.

In groups...

- Spend 10 minutes going through the project ideas of those in your group.
 1. For each project, identify one reason why it is a valid project...
 2. Make brief notes of any potential problems that you can identify.
- Tactfully report these back to the individuals concerned.

Clear identification of the aims of the study. 10%

- What is your exact question?
 - Do you have very specific aims?
 - The clearer your aims are, the easier the research will be.
- What do you hope to find out?

Outline of proposed methodology
for the study - providing a strong
rationale for the choices made.

30%

- Participants – who?
- Procedures – how?
- Design – what?

Participants

- Examine the proposed participant sample for your project.
- For your project, consider the following...
 - Is it realistic?
 - Is the number appropriate?
 - Is it appropriate for the proposed study?
 - Are there any potential problems with the sample that you need to be aware of?

Procedures and Design

- Look at the method for your proposed project.
- Is this appropriate to answer the question?
- Would any different methods be better to answer the question?
- Is it possible / realistic to add any further methods to gather information.

Identification of data analysis methods to be used. 20%

- Statistical analysis?
 - Questionnaires
 - Laboratory data
 - Observational checklists
- Parametric / non parametric (scale answers / frequency of yes or no answers)?
 - If you do not know what data analysis you will need, speak to a member of staff from your area of study about this...
- Analysis of qualitative data?
 - Interviews
 - Open ended questionnaires

Data Analysis: Task

- In your groups:
 1. Look at each of your project ideas in turn and work out what type of data you will have.
 2. Come up with ideas as to how the data could be analysed and presented.
- Are there any potential data analysis problems that you can see?

Outline of proposed timetable for the completion of the sections of the dissertation. 10%

- Completely up to you!!!
 - Be honest...when do you have other commitments to consider.
 - Discuss with the rest of your group how long you foresee each section taking to complete.
- 
- Three sets of concentric circles, resembling ripples in water, are located in the bottom right corner of the slide. They are light blue and fade out towards the bottom edge.

Other Considerations...

- Confidentiality
- Is confidentiality an issue for this project?
- If so, why?
- How can any potential problems be avoided?
- Ethical issues...
- You will be asked to complete an ethics form.
- Is there anything that you can foresee being a problem at this point?
- *Remember that if you don't have ethical approval you will not be allowed to continue with your research.*

Reflection

After all that!!!.....

- Have another look over your project ideas...
- Are there any changes that you would want to make based on:
 - The questions that you have asked yourself?
 - The advice that you have received from others today?

Task:

- On the piece of paper provided, please write the following information:
- Your name and degree programme...
- Subject area of your dissertation (this may come under two areas i.e. physiology / nutrition / psychology / outdoor education / PE / health / sport)
- Title of your study
- The name of the tutor you have been to see / are working with.
- When did you (last) speak to that tutor (approximate date)
- Has the tutor above agreed to be your supervisor?

Summary

- Keep the details from what you have done today – start a dissertation folder (if you don't already have one).
- If you have now decided upon a definite idea then start to gather resources on that topic to make sure it is a worthwhile area of study (rationale).
- You are now ready to start writing your formal project proposal.

Any Questions?



Presentation Handouts:

(this is also on the assessment handouts)

- A short (1 side of A4) typed handout must be produced: 2 copies are required (for the tutor and yourself).
- The handout must include proposed title, brief aims of project, rationale, main literature reviewed, methods, any results, discussion points, issues to be resolved.
- Obviously one side of A4 is short, so the above should be in bullet points on the main points of your study.
- **Venues and Date:**
- Week commencing 21st of October, 2019