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Tips for Writing a Research Proposal

First thing's first: Research Proposals should have a Title Page and Contents Page. The Title Page should include only the proposed name of the research paper centered in the width of the paper but above the paper's center height. The Contents page should feature the title of the key points to be covered and a page number at which the proposed points can be found. If there are subpoints or points to be discussed further, such as an argument for qualitative and/or quantitative research, then it should fall beneath the key point heading of Methodology, should be indented, should have only the crucial words capitalized, and should include the numerical indicator of the key point and a hyphenated numerical indicator of the subpoint's order. An example of this formatting would be:

6-2- Quantitative versus Qualitative research……7

It is important to note that page thumbnails are recommended for any research proposal and strongly urged in length research proposal (of approximately ten pages or more), because a Contents page with interactive thumbnails appears more professional and allows for an ease of navigation between pages. Unlike the subpoints, the key points should not be hyphenated or indented and should be in bold font. References should be follow the last point by a few spaces and be bold and not indented but not numbered. At the bottom of the page any figures should be listed with their page number under their very own centered, bold "Figures" heading, such as:

Figures

Figure 1: Quantitative Measures of Female Employment ……7

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A typical research proposal may include an Introduction, Literature Review, Reasons for Topic Selection, Aim, Objectives, and Methodology as key points. These may differ according to the subject matter, the length of the proposal, and the informative requirements of the person(s) to whom the proposal will be submitted.

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