

**Dr. Zeidler**  
**Criteria and Evaluation of General  
Research Proposal**

Criteria

Criteria are concerned with values or standards---what ought to be---the standards for preparing the proposal.

Evaluation Questions

Evaluation refers to what is—the process of critiquing the proposal involves a comparison between “what is and “what ought to be”.

**TITLE**

1. Specificity of Subject
2. Specificity of Purpose
3. Congruence with Hypothesis
4. Concision
5. Interest

Does the title provide the reader with a valid able of its contents?

1. Does the title specify the subject of the investigation?
2. Does the title reflect the purpose of the investigation?
3. Are the implicit subject and purpose congruent with the central question or hypothesis posed under statement of problem?
4. Is the title concise and euphonious?
5. Does the title stimulate reader interest?

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

1. Cogency
2. Focus
3. Control of Design
4. Control of Data
5. Relevance to Title of Study
6. Control of Reporting Process
7. Amenability to Testing or Verification

Does the statement of the problem serve as a control over all phases of the study?

1. Does the problem statement make clear to the reader the intention of the investigation?
2. Does the problem statement set limits to the problem?
3. Does the problem statement provide for linkage with procedures and techniques to be employed?
4. Does the problem statement relate to data to be collected?
5. Is the problem statement consistent with title of the study?
6. Does the problem statement serve as a control for the findings?
7. Does the problem statement eventuate in the formulation of hypotheses to be tested or questions to be answered?

8. Relevance to Knowledge

9. Clarity

10. Multiple Form

larger body of theory?

9. Is the central hypothesis or question couched in specific rather than general terms?

10. Does the central hypothesis or question generate subsidiary statements or questions, each of which is amenable to confirmation?

### SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

1. Conceptual Clarity

2. Evidence of Need

3. Objectivity

4. Genesis of Problem

5. Contribution to Existing Knowledge

6. Applicability

Does the investigator furnish justification for expending his own and others resources on the study?

1. Is the student's perception of the problem clear?

2. Does evidence from independent sources support the need for further study?

3. Does the proposed study demonstrate freedom from bias?

4. Have the factors which have given rise to the problem been examined?

5. Does the study promise to extend and/or define existing knowledge?

6. Is it shown that the study will have theoretical and/or practical application?

### REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

1. Adequacy of Introduction

2. Criteria for Selecting Related Studies

3. Historical Perspective

4. Relevance to Existing Knowledge

5. Critical Quality

6. Congruence of Design

8. Does the central hypothesis or question have relevance to a

Does the review of related literature demonstrate familiarity with the significance, dimensions, and status of knowledge in the problem area?

1. Does the review include an introductory section which states the purpose of the review and its topical organization?

2. Are criteria specified for selection of studies to be reviewed?

3. Does the review illustrate the historical development of the problem?

4. Does the review show how the study will contribute to the existing literature?

5. Does the review assess the soundness and relevance of other studies to the proposed research?

6. Does the review examine the appropriateness and applicability to the proposed research of research design and

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|-----|------------------------------|-----|---|
| 7.  | Applicability of Methodology | 7.  | Does the investigator show how he intends to replicate, modify or improve the procedures and/or how his methodology will differ from that used in previous studies? |
| 8.  | Relevance to Intended Study  | 8.  | Is the review selective? That is, does it include only studies which are relevant to the substance or methodology of the proposed research?                         |
| 9.  | Practicality to Reader       | 9.  | Does the review differentiate between Studies which are directly related to the topic under investigation and those which are related tangentially?                 |
| 10. | Comprehensiveness            | 10. | Is the review comprehensive? Are studies from related disciplines included which have meaning for the investigation?  |
| 11. | Organization                 | 11. | Is the review organized around major and minor headings so as to give form to the discussion?   |
| 12. | Adequacy of Summary          | 12. | Does the review include a concluding section summarizing the topics information specified under Section E?  |

DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

1. Specificity of Data
2. Availability of Data
3. Appropriateness of Data
4. Reliability and Validity of Data
5. Specificity of Sampling Technique
6. Sample Selection
7. Attribute Selection
8. Adequacy of Sample  
logic employed in other studies?

Does the design of the study focus on testing the hypothesis or answering the questions posed under the problem statement?

1. Are the kinds and sources of data required to carry out the study specified?
2. Are data identifiable as relating to each facet of the hypothesis or questions raised in the problem statement?
3. Do the data sources show promise of yielding the information required?
4. Have safeguards been employed In ensure that data collected are reliable and valid?
5. Are the populations from which sample data are to be derived specified?
6. Is the method of selecting the sample specified?
7. Are cogent reasons given for studying the attributes selected?
8. When statistical sampling is employed, is the sample size adequate to minimize inferential error?
9. Clarity of Method

- |     |   |     |   |
|-----|---|-----|---|
| 10. | Reliability and Validity of Instruments | 9a. | Are experimental and control groups identified and described?   |
| 11. | Choice of Statistical Technique         | 9b. | Are treatments to which groups will be subjected clearly described?   |
| 12. | Selection of Controls                   | 9c. | Is the method of assigning treatments to groups clearly stated?   |
| 13. | Integrity of Inferential Techniques     | 10. | Are the instruments to be used in gathering data specified? Has consideration been given to validity and reliability?                 |
|     |   | 11. | Are the statistical techniques selected adequate to test the hypothesis or the central question being investigated and the sub-parts? |
|     |   | 12. | Have measures been taken to control those variables not subject to experimental treatment?  |
|     |   | 13. | Is the population described to which the findings will be applied?  |

Applicable to experimental and inferential studies.

#### Additional Design Considerations:

- |     |                         |     |  |
|-----|-------------------------|-----|--|
| 14. | Hypotheses              | 14. | Are the hypotheses clearly stated, specific enough to be tested and stated to show the relationship between the variables under investigation. |
| 15. | Operational Definitions | 15. | Are all unique terms descriptively operationalized?  |
| 16. | Delimitations           | 16. | Does the author delineate those restrictions that are imposed by the researcher in the design of the study?                                    |

#### DATA ANALYSIS

- |    |            |  |
|----|------------|--|
| 1. | statistics | Does the proposal describe how the collected data will be analyzed?  |
| 1. |            | Does the proposal include possible statistical techniques that can be used to analyze the data? Have bogus tables been included showing the pass1— arrangement of variables in the analysis? |

## LIMITATIONS

1. Controlling Variance

2. Time Constraints

Is attention given to specifying the scope and content of the study with respect to internal and external validity problems?

1. Does the proposal reflect considerations which are restrictions to the study that exist and cannot be controlled but must be recognized as possible threats to the conclusions and general ability of the results?

2. Are limits set on the time—span encompassed by the data?

## REFERENCES

Are the references to authors/studies identified according to APA style?