

McNair 2020 Summer Research Proposal

[Title of Research Proposal]

[Scholar's Name]

[Scholar's Major]

[Mentor's Name]

[Mentor's Department]

[Submission Date]

The signatures below indicate that the Scholar has presented this research proposal to the Mentor, who has reviewed and approved this proposal for submission to the McNair Scholars Program.

Scholar's Signature

Date

Mentor's Signature

Date

[Title of Research Proposal]

Notes:

- 1) *These categories are useful suggestions. If, in your discipline's/mentor's opinion, they are not appropriate, feel free to ignore them.*
- 2) *To "make an argument" simply means to assert a point and cite evidence to support it.*
- 3) *In a case where the COVID-19 pandemic makes it impossible to do certain kinds of research, you should proceed as if this limitation did not exist...in other words, proceed as normal...and then add a section in or after your conclusion clearly stating this limitation and how you are going to make the best of the situation (i.e., spending more time on X than Y; writing the world's most robust literature review; etc.).*

Abstract

[Provide a 150-200 word summary of your proposed research project. This is to be used when you submit your proposal, but it also can appear here. Very briefly, this will include answers to the questions: What?, Who?, Where?, When? Why?, and How?]

Overview of the Research Study

[Provide one or two sentences to start this section that introduce the topic you will be researching, after which will follow additional and more specific sections as below.]

- **Background and Literature Review (i.e., What has been done with this topic before?)**

[Provide some general background on the research topic you will be exploring. Some references to the relevant literature as expected – two or three citations.]

- **Research Goals and Objectives**

[Here you will state the overarching goal(s) for, or purpose of, your research. A goal is a general statement. You may also have more specific objectives to accomplish in your research study, which you can list here as well. This should be discussed with your mentor.]

- **Importance and Justification for the Research (i.e., Why?)**

[Make an argument about why you believe this research problem/topic is important – not just to you, but more broadly in the discipline, for society, etc. Describe what you anticipate as the results of your research.]

Methodology / Research Design

[In this section you will describe exactly how you plan to carry out your research. Provide one or two introductory sentences for this section, and then address the following.]

- **Research Problem and/or Research Question**

[In this section, state as clearly as you can what the research problem or research topic is that you are studying. Depending on the type of research problem and study, you will likely have research questions that you intend to answer with the data you collect and analyze. Or you may have hypotheses that you intend to test. List here the Research Questions and/or the Hypotheses you will address in this study. This should be discussed with your mentor.]

- **Collecting the Data and Analyzing the Data (i.e., How?)**

[In this section, you will discuss the type of data you will be collecting and analyzing in the research study. You can discuss how you will collect the data, what instruments you might use to collect and measure data, etc. This should be discussed with your mentor. If possible, try to lay out a schedule of general tasks and activities and the timeline on which those will be done. Your mentor may have a preferred method.]

- **Anticipated Results and Presenting Results and Findings**

[In this section, you will think about and discuss what results you anticipate from the research. All research should have some ideas of what will be the results. The actual results may turn out differently, but some sense of what the research results may be should be discussed. And also discuss how you plan to write about the research results and findings and present those.]

Conclusion

[In this final section, summarize briefly what you have presented above and reiterate why you are undertaking this study, how it is important, and what you anticipate learning from this effort. This is again a matter of very briefly (and with narrative polish) answering the questions: What?, Who?, Where?, When? Why?, and How?]

Bibliographical References

[Provide complete citations to articles, books, papers, etc. you quoted or referenced in the body of the proposal on the preceding papers (at least 10 sources). Use a citation style acceptable to your discipline – check with your Mentor to know what that style is. For your research work, you should be using the scholarly resources in your discipline or those commonly in conversation with it. It is especially important to know what the scholarly resources in your discipline are. Your mentor can be a great help in this. Needless to say, non-authoritative websites should never be trusted as scholarly!]