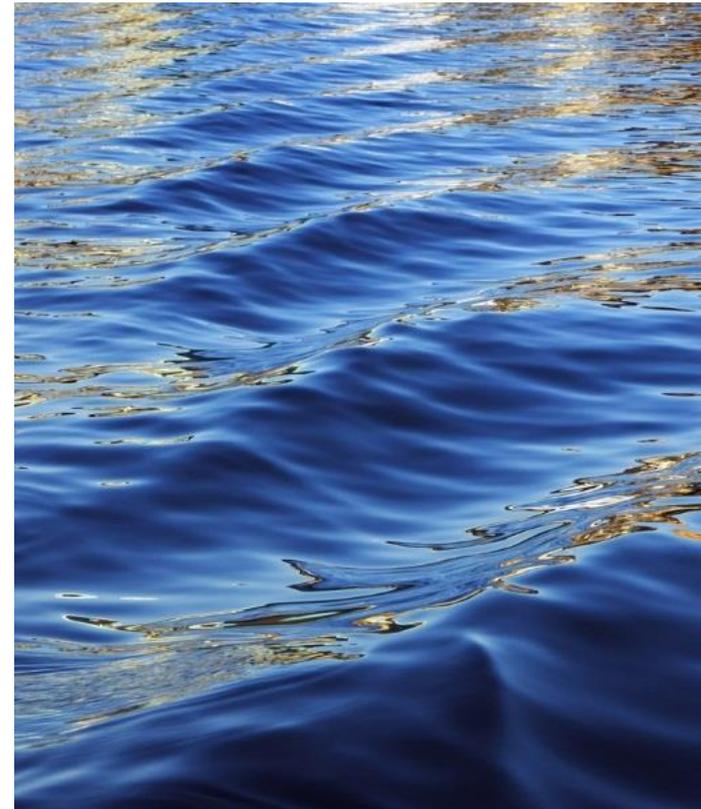


Module 1

A Guide to Write Paper Proposal in an Academic Style Paper



Objectives

The Young Inventors Journal (YIJ) was set up to help young or new paper writers learn how to write a well researched and referenced academic style paper. YIJ unlike most journals aims to help its writers push their own boundaries of knowledge. Thus, YIJ is a learning tool for the learner to learn writing by “doing” in line with ASTI’s main objective of promoting experiential learning. This document aims to:

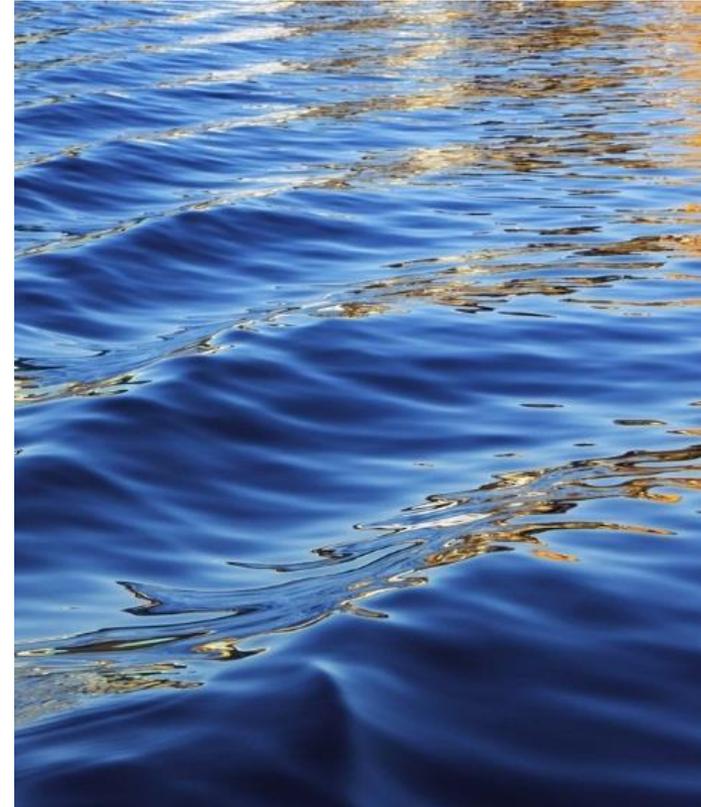
- ❖ To introduce the concept of a paper proposal in an academic paper.
- ❖ To outline the research proposal needs for the YIJ paper writing competition.

Content

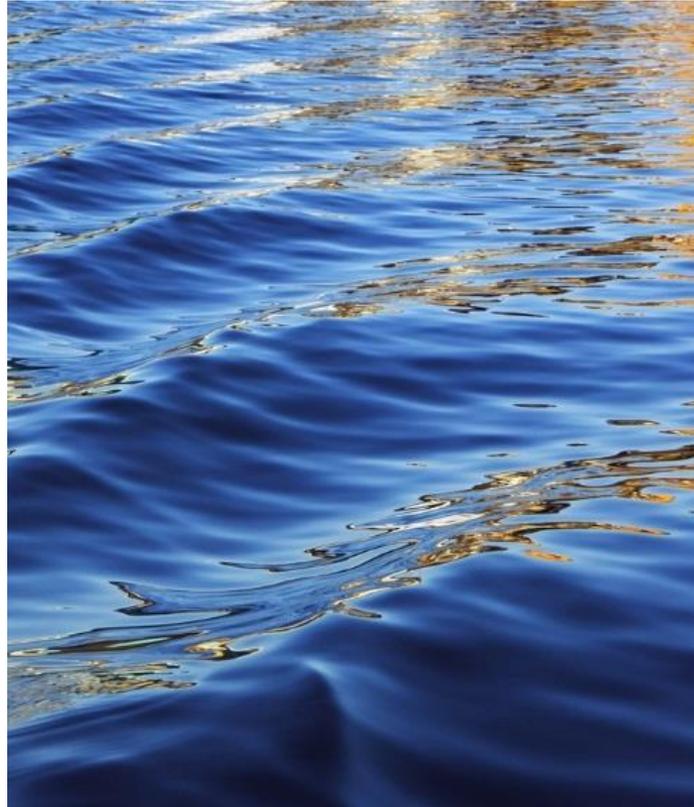
1. What is a Paper Proposal
2. Contents of a Paper Proposal



What is a Paper Proposal?



- It is a written document that outlines your research plans to produce the paper.
- It should be written in the present tense because you are letting readers know what you are about to research on, meaning you have not started your research yet.
- In this document, we have outlined a simplified method to write a research proposal as per the needs of the YIJ competition. Please do not hesitate to do more reading on how to write more detailed research proposals.
- For YIJ, it should be written within 200 – 450 words.



Contents of a Paper Proposal

1. Introduction

Here, you are establishing the background of your paper. Your paper has to be a well researched paper. You should start by introducing your topic of research/ paper.

2. Purpose of the study and/or The Problem or Issue you will be addressing

This section will describe the problem/issue that is related to your research/ paper topic.

- Approach this by answering the question “Why is it necessary to conduct this research?” and “why are you writing this paper?”. It is highly advisable to mention the problem you are trying to solve in a problem statement – a “problem statement” is the problem you are trying to solve which is summarized in one concise and precise sentence.

3. Literature Review

You will need to discuss very briefly the information and details that are already known about the subject, i.e. previous research and paper pertaining to your topic. For our purpose, this has to be brief, perhaps about 3-4 sentences.

4. Hypothesis

A hypothesis is a proposed theory or an idea that you intend to investigate through experiments or surveys, or any other forms of research. It should be something that you believe in and are looking to verify.

Ensure your hypothesis is written with precise language and it should be testable through experimentation, interviews, critical literature reviews and so on.

- An example of a hypothesis: “If I eat less carbohydrate a day, I will loose weight after 2 weeks”

or

- “If teachers are not given administrative work, their teaching quality will improve”

For an invention paper which is unique for YIJ, there is no hypotheses section – but you describe your invention and test it (see module of invention/innovation modules for more details).

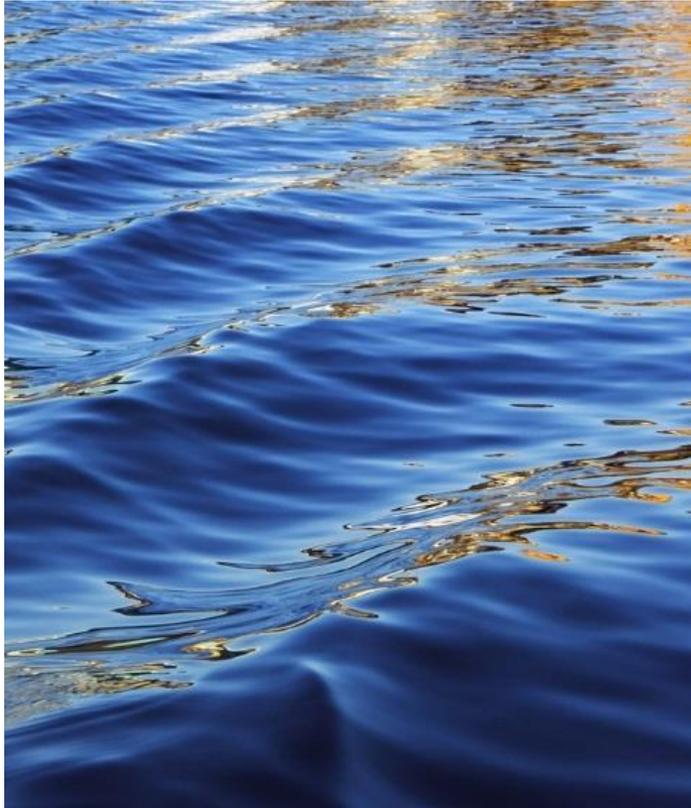
5. Methodology

This section will entail the methods you intend to adopt to prove your hypothesis is valid.

6. Limitations

You will need to disclose any limitations that may occur when doing your research. You may also mention the limitation of your proposed solution.

The proposal can also be called a pre-abstract if the write up is in just one paragraph – but it should cover the points highlighted above.



Thank You

Refs

Libguides.usc.edu. 2020. *Research Guides: Organizing Your Social Sciences Research Paper: Writing A Research Proposal*. [online] Available at: <<https://libguides.usc.edu/writingguide/researchproposal>>.

Westminster.ac.uk. 2020. *How To Write Your Research Proposal | University Of Westminster, London*. [online] Available at: <<https://www.westminster.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/research-degrees/entry-requirements/how-to-write-your-research-proposal>>.