Assignment: Write a Research Proposal

Walk your students through the basic steps of designing a research project by having them select a research topic, then write up a research proposal. SAGE Research Methods can help them with each step.

• Write a Research Question—Students often have a good research topic, but sometimes need help refining their research question. A quick search on SAGE Research Methods gives them information on what makes a good, testable research question.

• Conduct a Literature Review—SAGE Research Methods includes information on how to conduct a literature review, as well as how to write-up the results.

• Choose a method—Stephen Gorard’s video “How do I choose between different research methods?” talks about how to select the right method for your research.

• Dictionary and Encyclopedia entries are a great way to get a quick introduction to a method and narrow down the best means of testing their research question.

• If your library has access, SAGE Research Methods Cases can also help select methods. Students can search case studies for research questions similar to theirs and use the same or similar methodology.

• Write a Methodology Section—Once they’ve selected a method, books or monographs on that particular method will give students the deeper understanding they need to write a methodology section.

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