

Thesis Proposal Essentials

Research is an activity that attempts to answer questions that will benefit society. The key to good research is a strong focus—knowing what, why, and how you will examine a topic. Although it sounds simple, doing good research is not easy; one must have well-developed ideas. The questions below represent the essentials of a research project. Being able to understand and answer these questions provide a foundation for a successful thesis. Without this knowledge, your research will likely be a task of little reward to you and little benefit to society.

IMPORTANCE (Introduction)

1. Why is your research important? Who will it help?

Practicing reciprocal teaching strategy can help L2 students improving reading comprehension. The main problem for L2 students in reading is that even though they read text carefully they usually have difficulty in finding main idea. L2 students often read text word by word and look up a dictionary whenever they meet difficult words so that they have not only low speed at reading, but also low level of comprehension. Reciprocal teaching with small group activities can help L2 student to improving reading comprehension and to be an independent reader.

WHAT (End of Introduction)

2. *What are your questions? Are they answerable?*

Effectiveness of Reciprocal Teaching in L2 reading comprehension

WHY (Annotated Bibliography)

3. What resources have you found that relate to the proposed research project?
 - a. How are these resources useful for your study?

Include a list of at least ten (10) resources that you have found that relate directly to your study. List them in an annotated bibliography (this means a regular APA-style entry followed by a brief description of what the resource entails and how/why it is useful in your thesis).

Why do your questions matter:

- b. What theories explain why you should do your investigation?

Palincsar, A. S. & A. L. Brown. (1984). Reciprocal teaching of comprehension-fostering and comprehension-monitoring activities. *Cognition and Instruction*, 1(2), 117-175

- c. What have other researchers found about your topic?
Stricklin, K. (2011). Hands-on reciprocal teaching: A comprehension technique. *The Reading Teacher*, 64(8), 620-625.

Williams, J. A. (2010). Taking on the role of questioner: Revisiting Reciprocal Teaching. *The Reading Teacher*, 64(4), 278-281

- i. How is your research different from theirs?
I research the effectiveness of reciprocal teaching for adult EFL students, especially college students in L2 learning.

HOW (Methodology)

4. How will you do it:

- d. What instruments will you use?

Participants: 3 college students in each group.

One reciprocal teaching group and one contrast group

Procedures: Learning Reciprocal teaching strategy

Implementing Reciprocal strategy

Measures: Comprehension and Vocabulary Measure

Materials: Academic text

Data analysis Pre- and posttest measures of comprehension test

- e. How will the data you gather answer your questions?

Data analysis consists of categorizing the utterances observed during group work and comparing pre- and posttest measures

The thesis proposal is to be submitted to the TESOL MA office one week before the thesis proposal meeting (dates will be posted on the MA message board). In this way the faculty members have time to review the proposal before the proposal meeting. At the closed door meeting the thesis candidate will give an informal presentation explaining the idea they have for their thesis described in the proposal. The proposal should, therefore, provide the faculty members with enough information so that they can assess the potential of your ideas. It should include all of the above-mentioned parts on one clear and well-connected paper. The proposal should be like a short research paper with all the parts mentioned above. The better the proposal the better one's chances of

having their proposal accepted. A better proposal also gives one a leg up on their thesis so it important to put some time and effort into making a good proposal.