

# Masters Thesis Proposal Outline

## INTRODUCTION (1 PAGE)

- What is the specific scope of your research interest
- Why this topic is relevant/important (how important to sociologists, to the broader community, etc.)

## THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK (1-2 PP)

- Which sociological theories will you be using to frame your analysis?

## LITERATURE REVIEW (6-7PP)

- The literature review should be a well-organized synthesis of the research most closely related to your work.
- This might likely include the dominant debates, theoretical approaches, methodological research designs that have been used to understand your topic
- Your literature review needs to make an argument
- You are trying to demonstrate two things:
  1. You are familiar with the research that has been done in this area and can explain to fellow sociologists who might not be familiar with this specific literature, what is out there
  2. You have found a gap or “lacunae” in the literature...something that has not been well researched (or not been researched utilizing a certain theoretical perspective or methodological design)

## RESEARCH QUESTION (1/2 P)

- A concise formulation of your specific research question.

## METHODOLOGICAL DESIGN (1-2PP)

- What is your methodological approach?
- How will you get access?
- How many cases will you include?
- Describe how the cases be selected (random, convenience, etc.)
- How will you record your observations?
- How will you **code** the data?
  - Will you start the research with already established research categories (deductive approach) or will you look for the categories (to code) to emerge from the data (inductive approach/grounded theory)?
- Will your **analysis** of the coding be qualitative, quantitative or both?

## REFERENCES

- Bibliography -List only those authors included in your 7-8 page literature review.

## TIMELINE

- You must attach the *Masters Thesis Timeline* (available on the sociology website) with specific dates filled in. Start with your desired graduation date and work down.