

# Writing A Research Proposal

a basic outline in graphic form

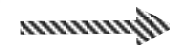
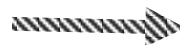
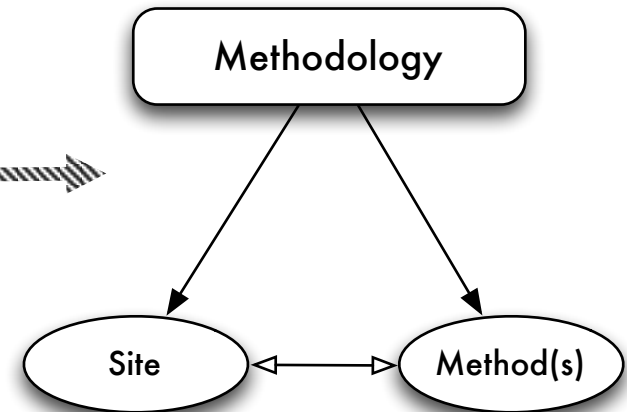
by S. Colom

Be specific: broad questions lead to unfocused literature reviews and disconnected methods.

## WHAT?

## WHY?

## HOW?



Let Lit help narrow your question.

What is the specific & focused question that will guide your research?

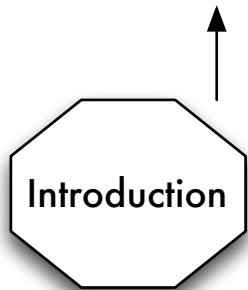
Why is this question important? Justify.

How will you study this question? Using what methods? And where?

What have others said about this topic? Organize thematically.

How will you build on this research and extend it? Evaluate and critique.

Make sure research is: feasible, connected to question, & limited in scope



Remember: Research is a process.  
There is constant feedback between your what, why, and how.

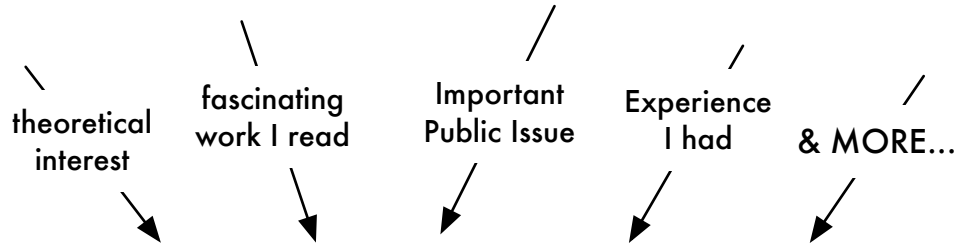
Always start at the very beginning...  
Briefly, explain what you want to research?

# Developing a sociological research question

some ideas in graphic form

S. Colom

There are a lot of big ideas that drop into our research funnel



Question is: How do I focus?

Some Techniques:

1. Ask your self: How can I narrow where I study, what I study, and who I study?
2. Think about relationships and differences between possible variables
3. Is there a puzzle that hasn't been explained? Think about tensions.
4. avoid broad assumptions and folk ideas
5. Continually ask yourself, "what aspect" of this can I creatively analyze.
6. Study good questions and bounce ideas off others

Often your *Review of the Literature* can help you narrow the question.

You might have broad interests, but you can only study a tiny part of that. Make that tiny part interesting through clarity and precision.

Focused,  
pointed  
question

The research must also be doable!

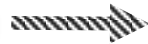
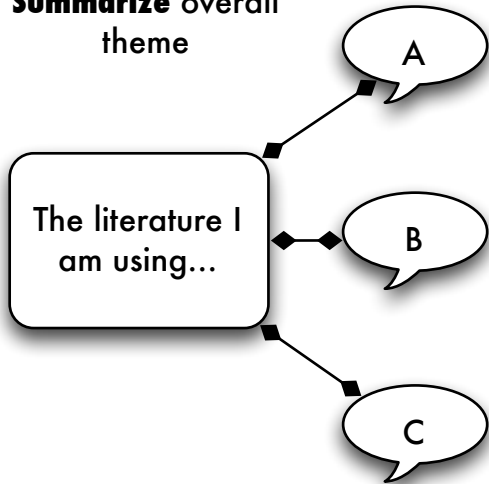
Research Question

As you do research, you may find your question develops further

1st

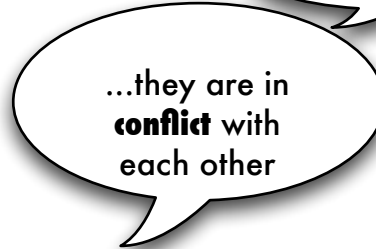
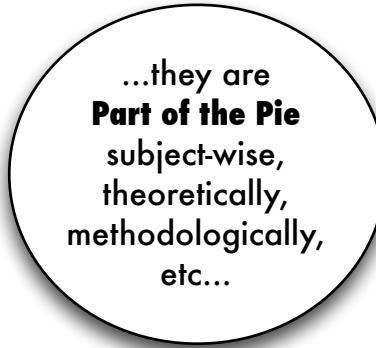
**Categorize/Classify**  
your literature

**Summarize** overall  
theme



2nd

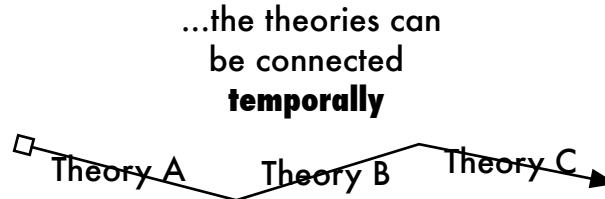
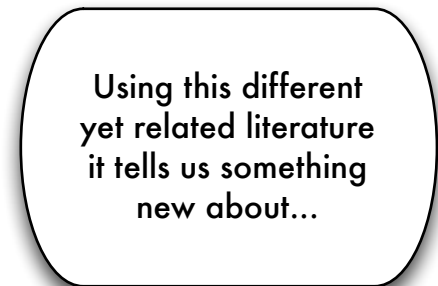
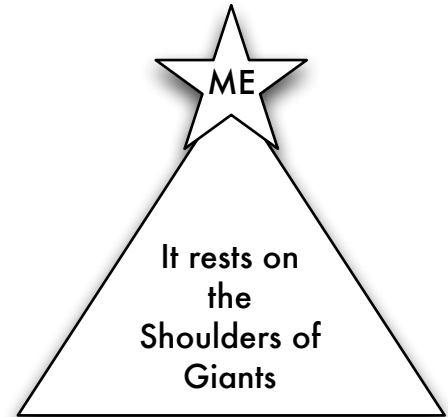
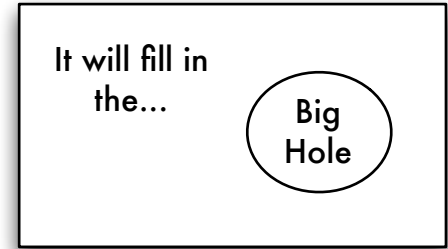
You can **categorize or connect**  
in multiple ways...



Thus...

3rd

My project is **important** because:



# Sociological Literature Review

some common organizational techniques  
by S. Colom

# How to Propose your Research Methodology

(before you've done the research)

by S. Colom

Research implies a logical relationship between ideas and evidence.

