Informative Title Goes Here

**Keywords:** Choose 4 or 5 keywords that would help people find your proposal in a WoS search

The first paragraph should lay the foundation for the importance of the research – this should be general, and should not refer directly to the research itself, but only to the general topics involved in the research. Most importantly, the first paragraph(s) should make the reviewers want to keep reading!

Since you are limited to four pages, a good strategy for in-text citations is to use numbers, such as the one that appears at the end of this sentence\(^1\). The numbers will refer to a numbered list of references at the end of your paper\(^2,3\).

The next few paragraphs of your paper should introduce the study system and the general idea(s) behind the research.

The final paragraph of the introductory section should leave no doubt in the reviewers’ minds that this is exactly the research that is needed to answer the particular hypotheses you will put forward in the next section.

Notice the use of titles, capitalization, italics, and bold – this was exactly the layout I used in my NSF proposed research essay, with the thinking that the reviewers had to review a lot of these proposals, and I wanted to make mine as easy to follow as possible. You do not have to use this exact layout, but I suggest you find some way of making your proposed research essay easy to follow for somebody who has just read 50 or more of these.

This introductory section should be about three to five paragraphs. Your entire paper needs to be exactly 4 pages, including references. You should have 10-20 references.

**HYPOTHESES:** (1) Hypothesis title here: State your first hypothesis clearly. (2) Hypothesis title here: State the second hypothesis clearly, and so on, for as many hypotheses as there are.

**METHODS:** Clearly and concisely summarize the methods in about a paragraph or two.

**ANTICIPATED RESULTS / INTELLECTUAL MERIT:** Clearly and concisely describe the anticipated results and intellectual merit of the research. This section should be about one or two paragraphs.

**BROADER IMPACTS:** Clearly and concisely describe the broader impacts of the research. Be sure to familiarize yourself with the broader impacts criteria on the NSF website. This section should be one or two paragraphs.

**LITERATURE CITED**