



# Writing an Undergraduate Research Proposal

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# Tips

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- Take deep breaths and breaks.
- Discuss ideas with your mentor and/or peers. Collaboration is key.
- Start the writing process early (Liu & Wang, 2022).
- Understand your parameters:
  - Page length
  - Required documents
  - Structure, format (such as APA format)
- Appreciate the process.
- Finalize: check for spelling/grammatical errors.



# What is the Purpose for the Current Research Proposal?

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- **Relevance-** Is your project important? Explain. Think about why your project should be funded? Impact.
- **Context-** Is the content connected to previous literature or a theoretical frame?
- **Method-** explore multiple methods, choose one specific to your proposal's purpose; think measurement!
- **Feasibility-** is your project feasible? This is directly connected to the project's timeline.

# Important Components



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- Introduction/Literature Review
  - Research Design and Methods
  - Competency, Skills, and Talents.
  - References Page
  - Timeline Example
  - Budget Template
  - Additional Documents...

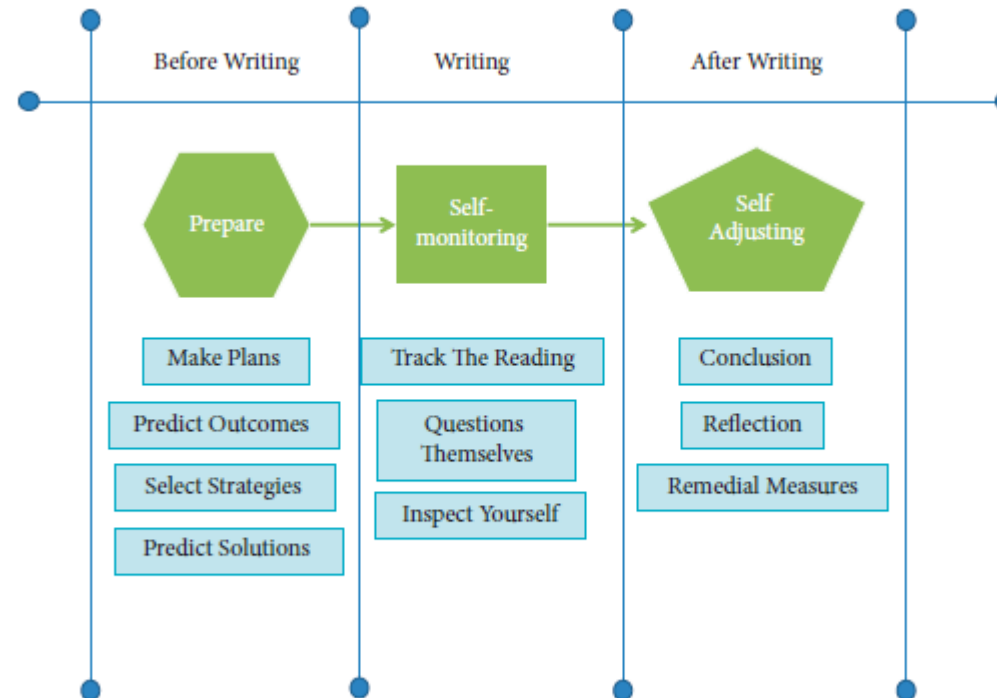
# Introduction/Literature Review

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- What was interesting about your topic area?
- What research has already been done in this topic area?
- What are the gaps in the literature? What is missing and what would your research add to the topic area of interest?
  - Describe the **problem** or **topic** in detail.
- Explain how your current research proposal will contribute to the current literature.
- Be specific, concise, and clear in your writing.
  - Metacognitive strategies may help.

# Literature Review: Metacognition

- The cognitive process of writing involves preparation, self-monitoring, and self-reflection.



Lui & Wang  
(2022)

FIGURE 1: The content of metacognitive strategies in the English writing process.

# Research Design & Methods

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- Consider independent and dependent variables.
- Measurements?
  - Quantitative or Qualitative?
  - Mixed-methods design?
- Describe specific activities and connect activities to specific outcome.
  - Example (visual charts are helpful to organize information/ideas):

Activity	Outcome
Students will engage in a professional development workshop for 1 hour/each week (for the duration of 6 weeks).	Students will learn one specific teaching strategy or skill each week. In summary, students will learn 6 new strategies/skills by the end of the project.

# Competency, Skills, and Talents

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- Identify you and your team's strengths.
  - Emphasize these areas in the proposal.
- Discuss your qualifications.
  - Most research proposals request information about you or your mentor's background/area of expertise.
  - **Connect to purpose** of research proposal.
  - **Example:** if applicable, discuss your access to research materials/equipment that the current proposal will allow you to utilize.



# Contribution to Knowledge

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Keep this component salient throughout the writing process, and especially in the middle of the proposal.

Remind yourself, “this work is important!”

- *Will you be adding to a current theory or introducing a new theory/model?*
- *Influencing policy changes?*
- *Improving best practices or recommendations?*
- *Always have a reference page!!!*

# Timeline Example

Date/Time Period	Identified Task	Purpose/Measures
June-July 2020	Prepare questionnaires and databases.	
August/September 2020	Pre-data collection for students and instructors	Baseline data on current skills.
October-December 2020	Assess learning strategies.	Time 1; Learning Assessment 1
January- May 2021	Assess intervention and progress with specific learning strategies.	Time 2; Learning Assessment 2
July 2021	Post-data collection	Final Learning Assessment & College Experience Survey
August- December 2021	Report Writing	

# Budget Example

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Item	Amount	Description
Equipment	1000	
Supplies	500	
Participant Stipends/Costs	1000	
Marketing	500	
Other	500	Misc. travel expenses
Total	3500	

# Integrative Process of Writing/Editing

Hayes & Flower's cognitive model

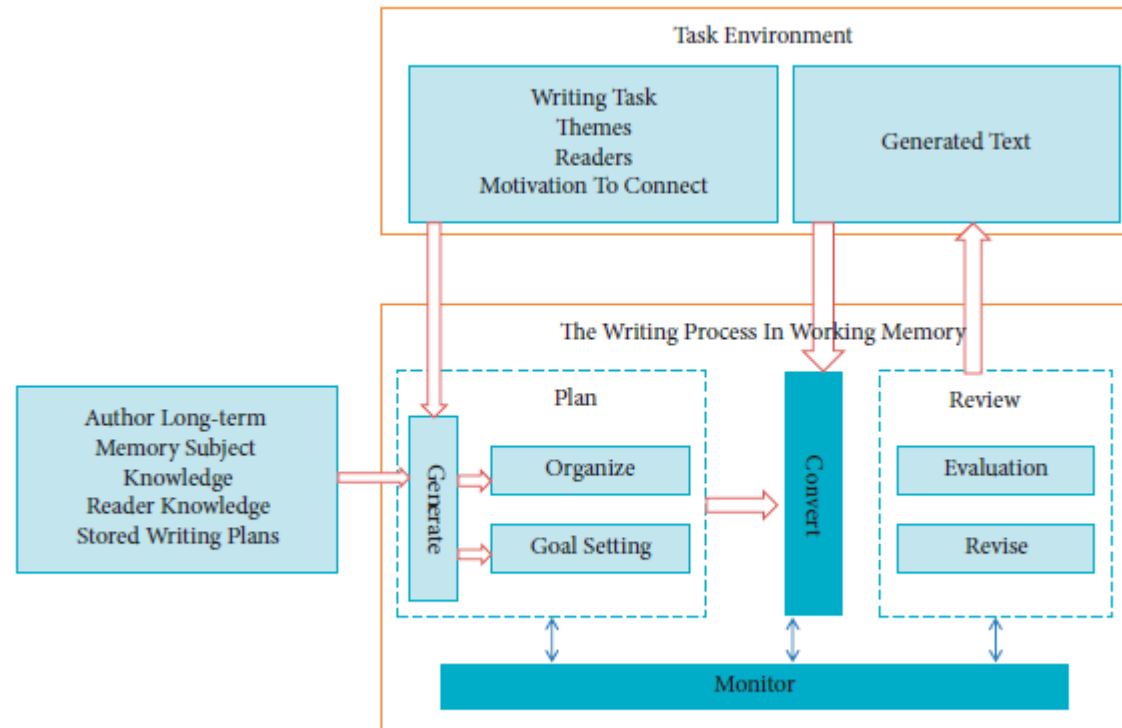


FIGURE 2: Hayes and Flower's cognitive model of the English writing process.

# Additional Documents....

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- *Curriculum Vitae/Resume*
- *Abstract (brief summary of entire research proposal)*
- *Theoretical Models/Figures/Charts*

# Funding Opportunities



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[Funding Opportunities \(csudh.edu\)](https://www.csudh.edu/funding-opportunities)



# Thank you

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# References

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Liu, B., & Wang, J. (2022). Influence and analysis of the language and cultural ecological environment in the cognitive process of English writing. *Journal of Environmental and Public Health*, doi:<https://doi.org/10.1155/2022/3883459>