Transcript

Chapter 9: Writing a Research Proposal

One of the things students often struggle with is coming up with a title. As your research develops so might the title so it can change from the proposal to the final dissertation. In practice there are some tips you can follow to help you in thinking about and developing your title.

You need to ***make sure your title is informative*** – so if it is about a certain place or employer then state this in the title. The title should give a clear indication of the topic so it needs to provide sufficient detail. For instance, if your research includes exploring the perceptions of younger people about religion in a particular area, then you should include the fact that it is about the ‘perceptions of young people in a particular place’ and ‘religion’ in the title. If it is too short, it risks not conveying enough information about the topic you’re studying. You could, in fact, ask a friend to look at your title and see what they think it is that you’re going to explore. If they are unclear, you may want to revise the title accordingly.

At the same time if the title *is* ***too long and complex***, then it’s going to lose clarity. Remember it is the first thing the reader will see and you want to create a good impression. A long and complex title is likely to put them off straight away.

It is not uncommon for dissertation titles to ***consist of a statement which may be more eye-catching or controversial in some way, with a subtitle that focuses on the specifics of the research*.** If you can get this right it can be really affective. But it isn’t essential though and it being clear and informative is much more important.

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