

Plan your term paper

→ write an exposé!

The exposé summarizes your preliminary research design and guides you through writing your research paper.

1. Header

- Name, e-mail address, number of semesters, study program
- Date
- Working title of your term paper
- Name of the seminar

2. Introduction to the research problem/research question

- Reference to the relevance and timeliness of your research problem
- Justify, that your topic is of political science (or sociological) relevance
- Justify your research question on the basis of the current state of research
- Explain the research gap: which “puzzle” do you want to solve?
- Formulate a research question with a “?” in the end

3. Research interest and theoretical/analytical framework of your paper

- Theoretical or empirical term paper?
- Theory generation or theory/hypothesis testing?
- Research interest and methodology: deductive or inductive approach, qualitative or quantitative research?
- Theoretical and analytical framework
- Hypotheses

4. Method, sources, data

- Specification of data sources and description of data
- What could be possible methods?
- For case studies, quantitative and qualitative comparisons: justify your case selection by outlining your case selection strategy
- For quantitative papers: describe the statistical procedure, discuss alternatives; what are your dependent and independent variables and how are they operationalized?

5. Time frame and working process

- Brief description: how and where are you going to work and do your research?
- Time table, including the steps you are going to take

6. Preliminary structure of your term paper

7. References/bibliography