**Research Assignment**

**Write a full proposal for your research project**

**Assignment**

Write a research question (this will determine the title of your research project) and design a methodology (or methodologies) to answer your question.

Include ten sources that can help in your research and be eventually incorporated in your literature review.

Write down what results you are expecting to get out of your research and include a limited bibliography at the end of your document using the Harvard System of Referencing.

Proposal length: 1 000 words

Due date: 15th May 2020

**The Layout of a research proposal:**

1. **TITLE – The Popularity of Trekking in Malta**
2. **ABSTRACT – 100 – 200 words – description of what you are going to do**
3. **METHODOLOGY – How are you going to research the topic you have chosen?** 
   1. **Questionnaire**
   2. **Survey**
   3. **Interviews**
4. **LITERATURE REVIEW – What was written before about the topic you have chosen.**
5. **DISCUSSION – Discussing your results and presenting the methodology including the data analysis.**
6. **CONCLUSION – What did you get out of your research?**
7. **APPENDIX – Extra tables, statistics and full interviews.**
8. **BIBLIOGRAPHY – A list of the sources you used in your project.**

**Further Information**

**The Research Question**

The purpose of a research question is to focus your topic and identify exactly what you will be examining in your research.

Research questions generally ask a question about the relationship between two variables. The variables should be stated in terms that can be measured or evaluated in some way. For example, some sample questions are listed below:

* Do tourist enjoy visiting places chosen by tour operators or would they wish more varied guided itineraries?
* What do winter tourists prefer doing in Malta?
* Is there a market for religious tourism in Malta?
* What is Malta’s potential for urban heritage tourism?
* What are the guiding preferences of independent travellers?
* What is the situation of tour guiding in relation with people with intellectual or physical disabilities?
* What is the role of the tour guide in transferring cultural understanding?
* What factors affect the quality of tour guiding in Malta?
* What are the challenges of special interest tour guiding?

**Methodology**

The point of a methodology is to explain exactly how you are going to answer your research question. You need to define your variables and explain how you are going to measure them.

It should be written in such a way that someone else could follow the same steps you took and compare their answers with your answers -- think of it almost like a recipe.

You can do a content analysis -- where you examine the content of different media, looking for something specific, according to the variables of the project you are going to choose.

You could also do a simple survey to find out people's opinions about a media-related question. You could distribute the survey in class or to friends. If you do a survey, you need to include a copy in your methodology.

Finally, you could conduct interviews with experts in your area of interest. In that case, your methodology would need to explain who you plan to interview and what you hope to gain from the interview.

**Further Resources**

[The Purdue University Writing lab](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/Files/132/4-thesis.html) (an outstanding site) has information on writing analytical papers and constructing research questions:

[The Seven Steps of Research](http://www.library.cornell.edu/okuref/research/skill1.htm)

This is a site from Cornell University that has a useful description of the research process.

[A Guide to Writing Research Questions](http://scils.rutgers.edu/~imat/comsta/qhv/qhf01.html)

Another useful site from Rutgers University