

GEO 772: Individual Research Paper - Fall 2026

GEO772-F2026: Writing Your Research Proposal

The proposal is a formal statement on WHAT you intend to do and HOW you intend to do it? In addition, WHERE/WHAT is your study area?

How will you actually make your research happen? What data will you utilize?

There are some potential pitfalls including (but not limited to):

- selecting too big a topic given resources, time and skills at your disposal.
- failure to identify appropriate and accessible data sources – without these you are going nowhere.

YOUR RESEARCH PROPOSAL QUESTIONS

Component	What is this?
Research Topic/problem	State and introduce your topic. Specify study area.
Research Questions	Provide more specific questions you intend to address.
Formal Hypotheses (if relevant)	Sometimes you may have specific relationships you wish to explore.
Data Sources	Which data already exist (secondary) or can be generated (primary) that will enable you to conduct your research? You do not necessarily have to generate primary data if you are to interpret secondary data sources in an original way – i.e: you are making a new contribution to the field of research.
Methods Data Analysis	How will you actually analyze the data to effectively explore your research questions? Visualization?