

FREE FILLABLE WORKSHEET

7 Sentence Research Rationale Builder

Build the first paragraph of your proposal around the points reviewers need to understand.

How to use Complete each sentence in your own words. Then combine the seven sentences into one paragraph on page 2.
Keep every claim accurate and supported by evidence.

1 Current problem

Over the past [time period], [population or phenomenon] has shown [quantified pattern or concrete example].

Evidence: official statistics, government data, or a representative study

2 Why the problem matters

This problem creates [specific harm, cost, or risk] at the [individual, organizational, societal, or disciplinary] level.

Evidence: scale of harm, documented cost, or policy concern

3 What has already been tried

Existing research and policy have mainly addressed this issue through [approach A] and [approach B].

Evidence: research streams, policy names, or established interventions

4 The precise research gap

However, while [what is known] has been examined, [what remains unknown] has not yet been established.

Gap type: population, method, data, theory, context, or time

COMPLETE THE ARGUMENT

Objective, urgency, and use

5

Your research objective

This study will examine [population or setting] using [method] to identify [mechanism, pattern, relationship, or effect].

Specify the population, method, and central construct

6

Why now

As [policy, institutional, technological, or social change] accelerates, this study is needed before [risk, cost, or inequity] becomes harder to reverse.

Evidence: current funding priority, policy change, or emerging condition

7

Output and use

The findings will produce [article, model, protocol, guide, dataset, or policy brief] that [intended user] can use to make [specific decision or action].

Name a concrete output, user, and decision

Assemble your paragraph

Paste or rewrite your seven sentences as one connected paragraph. Remove repetition, but keep the logic visible.

Final self-check

I included at least one specific number, case, or time reference.

The exact gap is visible in one sentence after a clear contrast.

The population and method are described as concrete research actions.

The final sentence names an output, a user, and a decision or use.