

Author Guide

GUIDELINES OF CONCEPT PAPER DEVELOPMENT

HORIZON Journals

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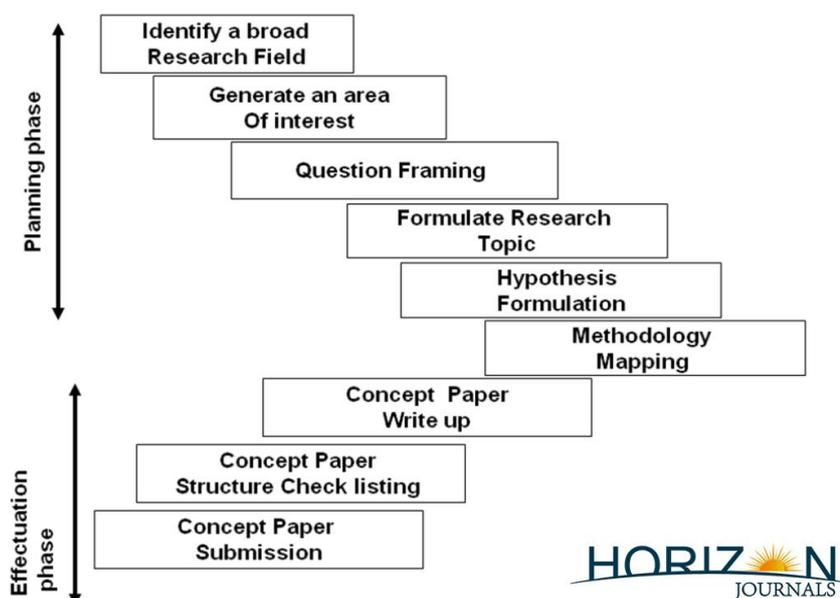
CONCEPT PAPER

1) INTRODUCTION

A concept paper is meant to give the reader an informed idea of the applicant's areas of research interest. Writers should therefore be as specific as possible. Concept papers vary in format and specifics depending on various journals or writers. These guidelines are intended to guide authors on how to develop a concept paper.

2) DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

Summary of the Concept Development Process



3) WRITE A CONCEPT PAPER

Draw on what you have developed in terms of areas of curiosity, research questions, research hypotheses, data sources, and methodology. Begin with a very direct and explicit statement of your area of interest and your research question(s). This should take about one paragraph. Move on to state your research hypotheses, or thesis statement. This should take another paragraph or so. Conclude with a discussion of your proposed methodology. This should take another paragraph. The entire Concept Paper should be at least 2 pages and not be more than 10 pages, double-spaced. Citations are appropriate if you used any sources in developing your Concept Paper.

4) CHECKLIST– CONCEPT PAPER IS OF THE HIGHEST QUALITY POSSIBLE!

1. Are you proposing to research something that is really of interest to you?
2. Are your research questions truly appropriate for academic inquiry, or are they more appropriate for casual or non-scholarly consideration?
3. Are your research questions actual questions that can be researched through academic means (e.g., library sources, interviews, surveys, etc.) or are they opinions or attitudes that can't really be researched?
4. Does your concept paper attempt to research an area of interest to you and ask (and propose to answer) specific questions, or is it trying to solve some problem (finding solutions to problems is not appropriate for a research paper, although you may make policy recommendations as a result of your findings).
5. Are your questions specific?
6. Are your questions answerable through research?
7. Have you stated at least one hypothesis (research or statistical)?
8. Have you identified the data you will need and how you will get it (methodology)?
9. Have you included citations, if appropriate, and a reference list or bibliography?

5) STRUCTURE OF THE CONCEPT PAPER

As a guide and to encourage uniformity in assessment of the concept papers, all applicants should structure their concept papers; taking into account the preceding process guidelines; as follows:-

- **Cover page**-include the title of your research, your names as they appear in the academic documents, the area of specialization of the PhD.
- **Introduction**-Briefly tells us about the area of your proposed interest and why such area is of significance to study. Justify why such an area is of utmost importance to do research about (not more than 3 paragraphs).
- **Problem statement**-Briefly state what the problem of the investigation will be for the proposed study. Give evidence of the magnitude of the problem by either giving the statistics where applicable or citations. Remember your problem can be theoretical or practical and whichever you opt to address, make sure you have 'convicted' the problem (two paragraphs).
- **Research Questions, Objectives and Hypotheses.** Formulate the key questions which your study intends to explore. The questions should be in harmony with the formulated objectives and any hypotheses if any; given the natural relationships among the three. Not more than 6 research questions/ objectives should be formulated.
- **Literature**-Briefly review the current literature about the proposed area of research. Use journal sources and primary sources like dissertations within your area of specialization. At this level, you can show how current you are aware of the debates and developments within your chosen area of research (2-3 pages would be adequate).
- **Methodology.** Finally, you should briefly describe the methodology you intend to follow in conducting the proposed research. You need to show in this methodology the research orientation in terms of research paradigm-qualitative, quantitative or both.
- **References.** The last part of your concept paper should be a list of references (all works cited in the text) and ensure you follow the American Psychological association style of referencing (APA-**edn. 6 or 7**). Its guidelines are available on the World Wide Web.

In case of any queries, contact the Journal's Editorial office via email to CEE.horizon@gmail.com

Chief Executive Editor
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