Writing a Research Proposal: School of Informatics
That KEY point again.
Return to the example proposal: page 3 Methodology on. What tense forms do you see being used?

Present & Future verb forms [Active & Passive]

be + to + verb: The aim of X is to do Y. [infinitives] 
X can be used to do Y. [modals]

[Conditional would/could]

e.g. This ensures the feasibility, of what could otherwise be a risky project.
The methodology selected will be / is intended to be....

- a modified version of
- slightly modified
- adapted from
- based [in part] on/ partly on
- in line with
- in essence
- to modify/ to refine/ to revise [ BE SPECIFIC].

And then explain **how** in detail!
• Although in essence similar,
• Although in many ways similar,
• Although partially based on,

one novel step will be to adapt/ adjust / alter/ change...

THEN SAY what you are altering in detail and WHY!
• To validate the results from X, data will be analysed using Y.
• For the sake of simplicity, only X will be analysed.
• The advantage of using three-dimensional analysis is that X.
• One advantage of using X is that Y.
• By partitioning the sample into three, I will be able to ensure X.
• The X will be Y, so allowing the Z.
• This should avoid issues with X or Y.
The proposal should demonstrate the originality/usefulness of your intended research. You should therefore explain why your research is important, for example:

- by explaining how your research builds on and adds to the current state of knowledge in the field
- by setting out reasons why it is timely to research your proposed topic.
Identifying the gap or problem.

- gap in our knowledge
- little evidence is available for ...
- restricted by ...
- not sufficiently ...
- need for ...
- there is growing concern ...
- remains unclear
- does not ... [achieve / offer ...]
- there is no ...
- a key/major drawback

- impractical
- inaccurate
- inadequate
- incompatible
- limited
- redundant
- unrealistic
- weak
- narrow
• A current / common / crucial issue / focus
• A powerful tool / method
• Of great concern is
• Of growing [commercial] interest is
• attracting / generating widespread interest
• play(s) a key role in ... / a major part in ...
• play(s)
• For a number of years, ... / the last decade, ...
• The importance of ...

• typical(ly)
• well-documented
• widely recognised
• worth / worthwhile
• benefit / beneficial
• importance
• vital
• potential / possible / probable
Image segmentation is the first stage of image processing in many practical computer vision systems. The development of static image segmentation algorithms has attracted considerable research and is enabled by a wide range of methodologies. However, work that has been published in the video analysis domain is still quite narrow and biased towards the sole use of motion characteristics. The recent proliferation of digital video archives and the advent of video analysis techniques has augmented the interest in the identification and tracking of physical objects within videos. High level semantic annotation of physical objects is the key to applications ranging from security and surveillance to information retrieval to sports and entertainment.
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• By doing X, the intention is to Y.
• I expect to achieve ...
• This should mean that ...
• This could lead to X.
• Potentially, ... Presumably, ...
• It seems plausible that ...
• Manageable / feasible
X will be evaluated
X will be used to evaluate the ...
I will evaluate and compare the ...
The objective is to evaluate the feasibility of X as a Y
Useful verbs in a research proposal.

- To operationalise ...
- To determine ...
- This then enables ... This will ensure ...
- This is / may be dependent on...
- X typically occurs when...
- X is typically performed by ...
- I envisage + Verb-ing ... [NB: Do NOT use IT IS ENVISAGED. Etc!]
- I expect / anticipate ...
- A key component ...
Once ..., X

On + Verb-ing ..., 

Having established the X, I then intend to Y.

Methodologies tend to vary in that...

**Writer responsibility**

- Topic sentences
- information flow [theme & rheme]
- cohesion
- repetition
- This/These
- bamboo sentences
One last KEY point.
One last KEY point.

perhaps, admittedly, may, possibly, likely, probably, predominantly, presumably, seems, appears, may, suggests, to some extent, sometimes, often, around, roughly, fairly, usually

is, are, will be, believe, know, prove, certainly, indeed, always, undoubtedly, in fact, clearly, actually, firm, obviously, conclusively, definitely, evidently, straightforward
Include:

- Background
- Unknown/ problem/need
- Overall objective
- General strategy
- Significance/ impact.
- Include a statement of need
- Clearly identify the overall objective
Avoid these common errors in postgraduate research proposals:

• Rationale is weak
• Writing is vague
• Uncertain outcomes
• Problem is not important
• Proposal is unfocused and lacks sufficient detail

(from MIT
• Formative and summative
• Formal and informal
• Feedback vs feedforward
Using feedback for feed forward

- Understanding feedback / feedforward
- Things to **stop doing**
  - work on/develop
  - continue doing
- RAG: **Red, Amber, Green**
Using feedback for feed forward

https://library.leeds.ac.uk/info/1401/academic_skills/129/using_your_feedback
### Using feedback for feed forward

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Key Learning points to feed forward</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Action</strong></td>
<td>Criterion 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RED</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMBER</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

http://www.phrasebank.manchester.ac.uk/