

Writing a Research Proposal: School of Informatics

English Language Education



Organisation

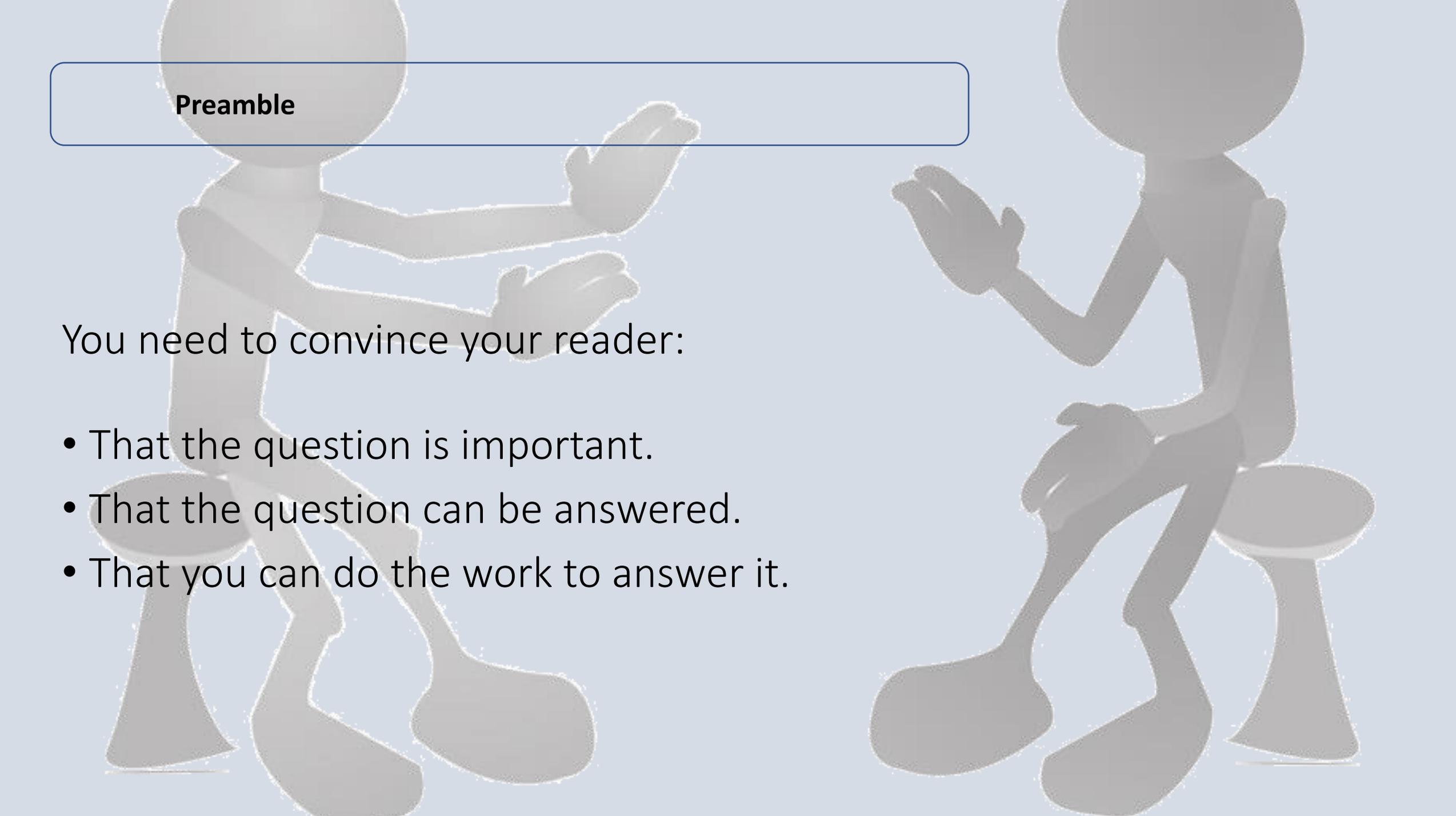
Style & Language

Feedback and Feedforward

Aim

- to help you produce a clear, concise and stylistically appropriate *Project Proposal*.

The language and conventions covered here should also help you produce a well-written *Dissertation*.



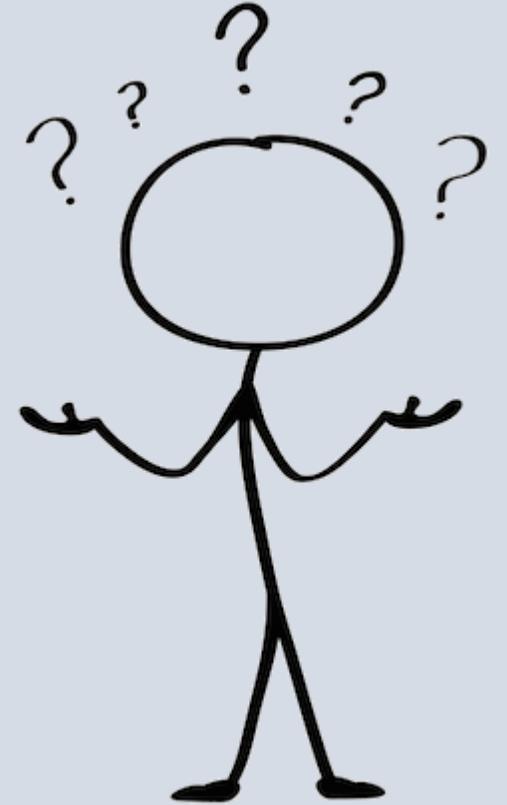
Preamble

You need to convince your reader:

- That the question is important.
- That the question can be answered.
- That you can do the work to answer it.

A common question to begin...

Is it OK to use “I”?



An example.

Read P.1 of the example proposal.

How has the writer made their narrative impersonal?

When do they switch to 'I' and why?

<https://www.wiki.ed.ac.uk/download/attachments/381815852/irp.google.pdf?version=1&modificationDate=1541514337000&api=v2>

An example.

- Maintains a clear focus on the topic (*image segmentation*)
- Integrates sources, using first integral style (*Goldman et al [1]*) and non-integral (*[2]*)
- Highlights *The need for metadata*

An example.

of player and ball movement in soccer games [2]. The motion trajectories of the ball and players across the field is essential for the analysis of matches and tactics.

The need for metadata describing high level components in the video, such as objects and motion trajectories, is common to a wide range of applications, so the methodology adopted in this project will be applicable across different domains. Having said that, the required format and type of metadata might vary across applications. Thus in this project we will focus on fulfilling the needs of a rich media application interface which will be capable of incorporating visual tagging for authoring rich media such as hyperlinked videos.

An example.

Thus in this project **we** will focus on ...

Our hypothesis is that ...

In this report **we** will propose a ...

... plan for evaluating **our** hypothesis.

In the next section **we** will give a ...

... which will be a key element in **our** methodology

In section 4 **we** will present a ...

In section 5, **we** will proceed by discussing ...

An example.

Thus in this project I will focus on ...

My hypothesis is that ...

In this report I will propose a ...

... plan for evaluating my hypothesis.

In the next section I will give a ...

... which will be a key element in my methodology

In section 4 I will present a ...

In section 5, I will proceed by discussing ...

An example.

Thus this project will focus on ...

It is hypothesized that ...

This report will propose a ...

... plan for evaluating the hypothesis.

The next section will give a ...

... which will be a key element in the methodology

Section 4 will present a ...

Section 5 will discuss ...

Some more examples.

I/**We** will further discuss the methodology for ...

As I/**we** have already discussed, the ...

I/**We** can extract X from ...

I/**We** might adapt an X ...

I/**We** will refer to X as Y.

I/**We** aim to reduce the X by Y-ing the Z.

In this sample, **we** can see that there are ...

Some more examples.

The methodology for X **will be discussed** further ...

As already discussed, the ...

X **can be extracted** from ...

An X **might be adapted** ...

X **will be referred to** as Y.

The X **can be reduced** by Y-ing the Z.

In this sample **it can be seen** that there are ...

A KEY point.



So, what are the implications for your use of verbs, for example?

What is focus of the proposal?

Image segmentation is the first stage of image processing in many practical computer vision systems.

When it comes to computer vision systems, the first stage is image processing.

The example.

Revisit the example proposal: what is the basic organisation the writer applied?

<https://www.wiki.ed.ac.uk/download/attachments/381815852/irp.google.pdf?version=1&modificationDate=1541514337000&api=v2>

Organisational Principle.

- Purpose
- Hypothesis
- Background
(Subsections)
- Methodology
(Subsections)
- Evaluation
- Work Plan
- References

Agree?

Organisational Principle.

- **Motivation:** problem; hypothesis; significance; feasibility; beneficiaries
- **Background**
- **Methodology:** including risk assessment
- **Evaluation**
- **Expected Outcomes**
- **Research Plan**
- **References**

Organisational Principle.

- **Motivation:** problem; **hypothesis**; significance; feasibility; beneficiaries
- **Background**
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- **References**

Another Question:

What is the difference between:

- *motivation*
- *purpose*
- *objectives*
- *aims*

Useful language.

- Background known
 - Present tenses (simple & perfect) & Reference to literature
- Unknown/ problem/ need
 - **However**, ... **Although** ..., **Despite** ..., **Nevertheless**, ...
- Aim/ Hypothesis
 - **This project aims to** ...
 - **I hypothesize that** ...
- Significance/ impact
 - **This proposal serves to not only create ... but also** ...
 - **Further research that builds on this project would** ...

Useful language.

(Thus) This project/study

aims to ...

(Therefore)

will build on ...

will focus on ...

will set out to ...

The purpose of this study **is to ...**

The objective is **to evaluate** the feasibility of ...

There **are** two primary aims of this study: 1. **To ...**

This **motivates** a ...

And another Question:

What is the difference between:

- *methodology*
- *method*
- *tools*

That KEY point again.



Look at the verb tenses used in:

1. the exemplar project proposal and/or
2. your own project proposal.