

SRP Check List



ILLUSTRATION BY ERIN WALLENBERG

QUALITY CONTROL

If you can check off all the boxes below with confidence, you are on your way to producing an excellent Senior Research Project.

Conceptual framework and literature review

Did I successfully place my SRP in a conceptual framework?

- Does my SRP spell out a clear research question, argument, or problem? Does it provide specifics/background/evidence on why it important? Do I clearly outline my specific objectives, including how my research provides insight into the general topic or problem?
- Do I clearly spell out how my research is related to other previous and ongoing research? Did I tell you if anyone else is doing what I did? Is my literature review organized around a clearly articulated theme or argument?

Research design and methods

- Did I clearly explain my data collection strategy and methodology?
- Did I explain my research design and my logic for choosing particular methods (why, for instance, I chose to do interviews, content analysis, and/or archival research)? Your research design is your "action plan for getting from here to there, where here may be defined as the initial set of questions to be answered, and there is some set of conclusions (answers) about these questions" (Yin 1994: 19). Do I convince the reader that my approach is rigorous and based in social science methods--be they qualitative or quantitative?

Concluding section (outcome/ deliverables)

- Do you get a clear picture of my findings? Do I convince you that they are significant? Have I reiterated the main points of my study, and suggested why I think it matters? Do I spell out the implications of my research, and identify what questions remain unanswered?

FORMAT

	YES	NO
Does the cover page conform to all the requirements, e.g., title, name, date, abstract, key terms?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are the pages numbered?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does the SRP contain major subheadings to help the reader navigate the text?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are paragraphs coherent?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are your paragraphs the right length (not too long)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Did you check spelling and grammar?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Did you eliminate all unnecessary jargon and empty phrases or words (e.g., “really”, “actually”, “with regards to”)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Did you use the Chicago Manual of Style for formatting?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are all the sources cited in the body of the text also in the bibliography?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>