

GEOG 5800: Research Design and Geographic Applications

Suggestions for Problem Statement Peer Review

Here are a few things to consider as you read and comment on the problem statements in your “group of four”:

- **Remember: this is meant to be a time when everyone gives and receives useful comments to help us with our research**
 - Be open-minded, as the research you will read may be quite different from your own (and this is not a bad thing)
 - Be respectful as you encounter differences with how you might do or say things (as we hope that people are respectful to you as you do things that are different from them)
 - Be thoughtful, as you might be able to share an idea that could make a real difference for one of the other students
 - Be receptive to suggestions, as some of the ideas you get might make a real difference for your own work
- **Before you start the group discussion, take some time to read and consider each problem statement**
 - Each person in the group should ask themselves if they understand the context for each study: do you get the general idea about what is being proposed?
 - If not, there is a major problem that should be addressed
 - Also think about the other major dimensions on the problem statement assessment page (separate copies of these assessment pages will be available): any issues
- **In the time of group discussion, take the time to consider each problem statement individually**
 - Start with someone (whoever wants to go first in the group), and that person should take no more than five minutes to talk about their research in a general sense: what they’re trying to do, why they think it is important
 - The person should then read the key part of their problem statement out loud (the most important sentence or few sentences that state the core of the problem they want to address in their research)
 - Follow that up with a time of open comment: go around the circle and have each person ask a question or provide a comment on the problem statement
 - Keep going around the circle as many times as necessary until you’re out of questions
 - Then, repeat the process above with each of the other people in the group until everyone has had a chance to talk about their research and receive comments on their problem statement

I hope this time of comment and discussion is helpful as you think about how you can best define and plan your research.