

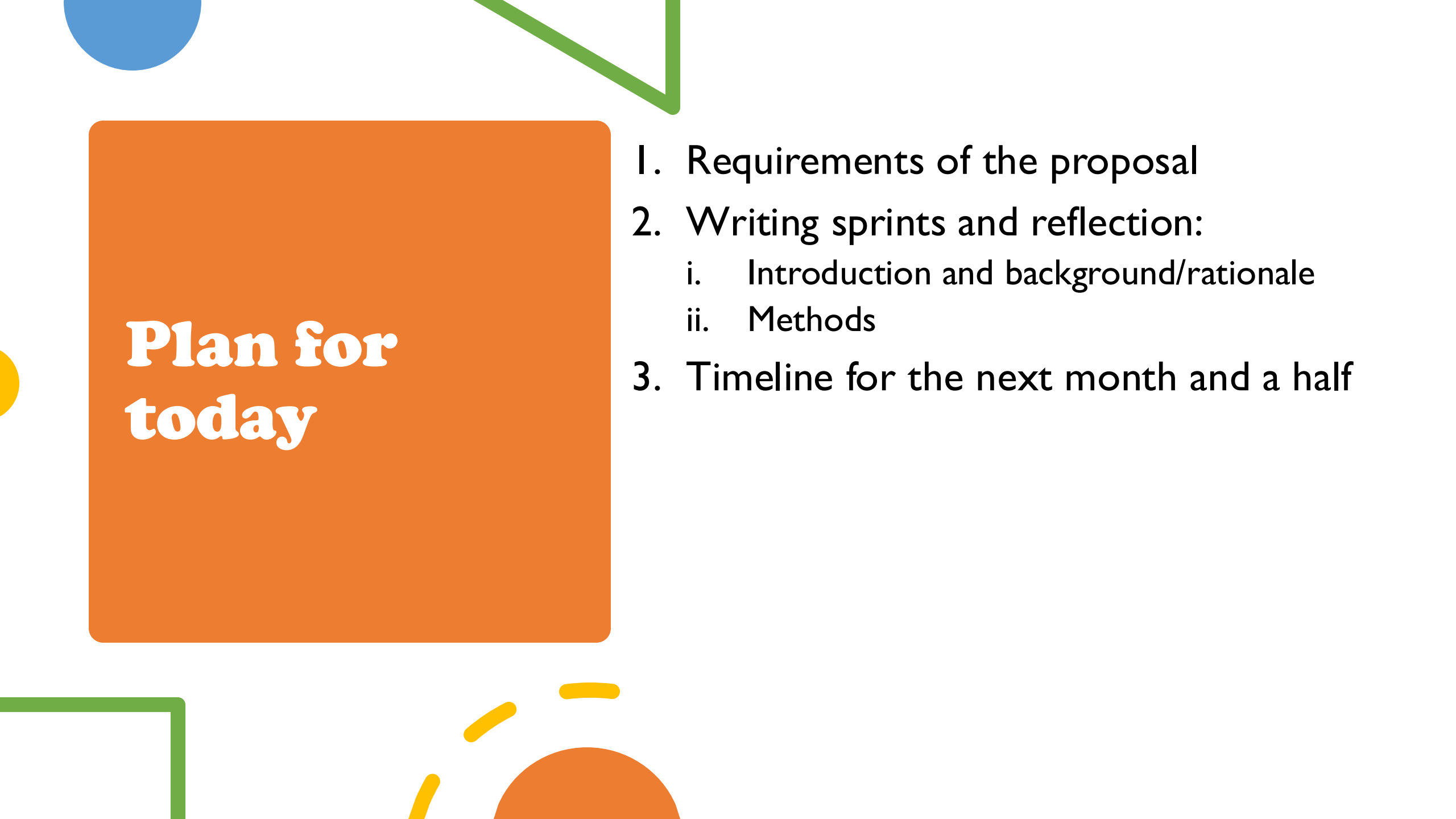
A dashed yellow arc is located in the upper-left quadrant of the white circle.A solid blue dot is located in the lower-right quadrant of the white circle.

Dissertation workshop 3



Objectives for today...

- Understand the different components of the research proposal assignment
 - Articulate the steps you need to take to complete and submit your ARMI research proposal assignment.
 - Understand how to submit your dissertation topic so you can be allocated a supervisor.
 - Identify any further questions you have about the development of your dissertation proposal.
- 



Plan for today

1. Requirements of the proposal
2. Writing sprints and reflection:
 - i. Introduction and background/rationale
 - ii. Methods
3. Timeline for the next month and a half



MSc marking guide

Criteria	Approx. word count	Marks available
Title and abstract (<u>not</u> included in word count)	150-200 (but not included in total)	5
Introduction and background/rationale	500	20
Research aims, question and objectives	150	15
Methods	500	20
Approach to analysis	200	10
Expected contribution of your proposed research	150	10
Timelines for your dissertation (not included in word count)	N/a	15
Reference list and referencing (not included in word count)	N/a	5
TOTAL	1500	100



iBSc marking guide

Criteria	Approx. word count	Marks available
Title and abstract (<u>not</u> included in word count)	150-200 (but not included in total)	10
Introduction and background/rationale	750	20
Research aims, question and objectives	250	15
Methods	750	20
Approach to analysis	250	20
Timelines for your dissertation (not included in word count)	N/a	10
Reference list and referencing (not included in word count)	N/a	5
TOTAL	2000	100



Title...

- Try to include subject and study design in the title
- Make it concise and punchy
 - E.g., "A narrative review on barriers to and facilitators of health systems strengthening in East Africa"
- **TIP:** Good practice is to think what keywords/search terms someone would use to find your study and construct the title around these

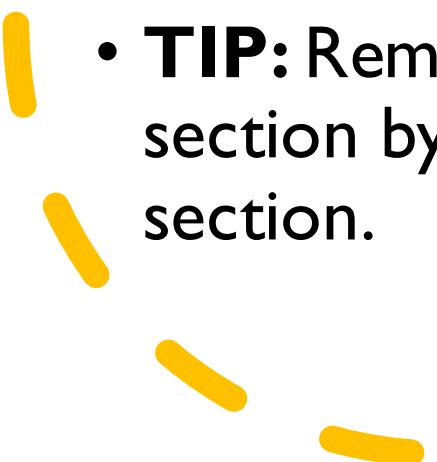


...and abstract

- 
- 
- 
- The abstract is a summary of everything in the proposal – a sentence or two on each element
 - **TIP:** Write the abstract at the end!



Introduction and background/rationale

- What is the problem you are addressing? Why does it matter?
 - Drawing on key literature on your topic (use annotated bibliography if MSc) identify what's already been done, what gaps are, what methods, theories, and frameworks have been used
 - Situate your own approach in relation to the above
 - **TIP:** Remember here to **synthesise** across sources and end the section by clearly leading into your aims, question and objectives section.
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Research aims, question and objectives

Aim: What do you hope to achieve?

Research question: What question is your research answering, in order to achieve your aim?

Objectives: What steps will you take to answer your question?

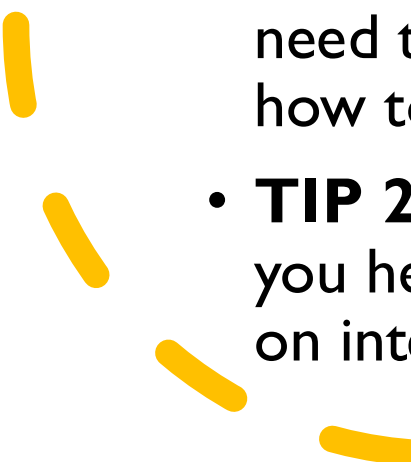
Methods

- What is your chosen method (e.g., narrative review, policy analysis, in-depth interviews) and how will this help you answer your question?
- Why is this the most appropriate method?
- Draw on methodological literature (**TIP:** Use further reading lists)
- Are there any ethical issues and do you need ethical approval?





Approach to analysis

- What theoretical perspective are you approaching your topic from?
 - What frameworks will you use?
 - Why is this the most appropriate approach to answering your question?
 - **TIP:** This is early days in your project so you might not be sure yet, BUT for the purpose of this assessment, be **as specific** as you can – we just need to see that you are thinking about theory and/or frameworks and how to apply them.
 - **TIP 2:** You might need to look to non-topic specific literature to help you here. E.g., if you are taking an intersectional approach, find literature on intersectionality.
- 

Expected contribution of your proposed research (MSc only)

- Who cares?
 - Who will this benefit?
 - How will it benefit them
 - Be realistic here
 - **TIP:** Be very specific and concrete, e.g., is there a specific organisation you are working with or might reach out to to share your research?
- 

Timelines

- Use a Gantt chart to plan your research timeline
- This will help us (and you) to assess feasibility
- Use it as a guide to see if you are staying on track
- Gantt chart templates available under 'Assessment information' tab on QMPlus
- **TIP:** Term 2 is very busy up until you finish assessments, and the bulk of your *data collection* will happen after April – don't overpromise here!



Month	January				February				March				April				May				June				July			
Week	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Refine methodology																												
Ethics application																												
Literature review																												
Theoretical framework																												
Data collection																												
Data analysis																												
Write chapters:																												
Introduction																												
Literature review																												
Methodology (inc. framework)																												
Findings																												
Discussion																												
Conclusion																												
Abstract																												
Proofreading and editing																												
Finalising for submission																												

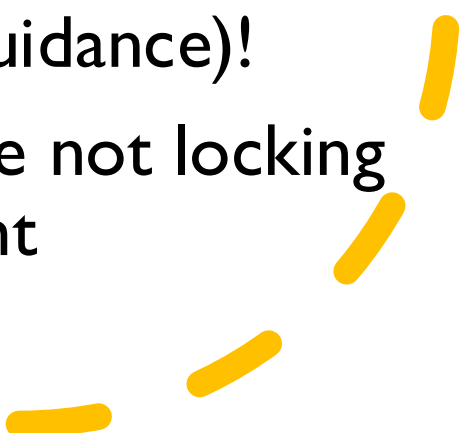


The Gantt Chart: An (incomplete) example

Reference list and referencing

- Use either Harvard in-text referencing (author, date) [or (author, date: page number) if quoting directly]...
- ...or Vancouver (numbered endnotes)
- Your reference list should be consistently formatted
- Using referencing software (EndNote, Zotero, Mendeley) will make your life easier down the line, but requires a bit of upfront practice
- Guidance on how to use these on the library website
- If using software, do still double-check your references!

Key things to bear in mind

- **Feasibility feasibility feasibility!**
 - Link rationale, aims, RQ, objectives, methods and approach to analysis (and tell a story with the proposal!)
 - Read literature on methods and frameworks/analysis
 - Think **carefully** about timeline
 - Word count differences between MSc and iBSc (check you are looking at right guidance)!
 - Your project *will* change – you are not locking yourself into anything at this point
- 

Any questions

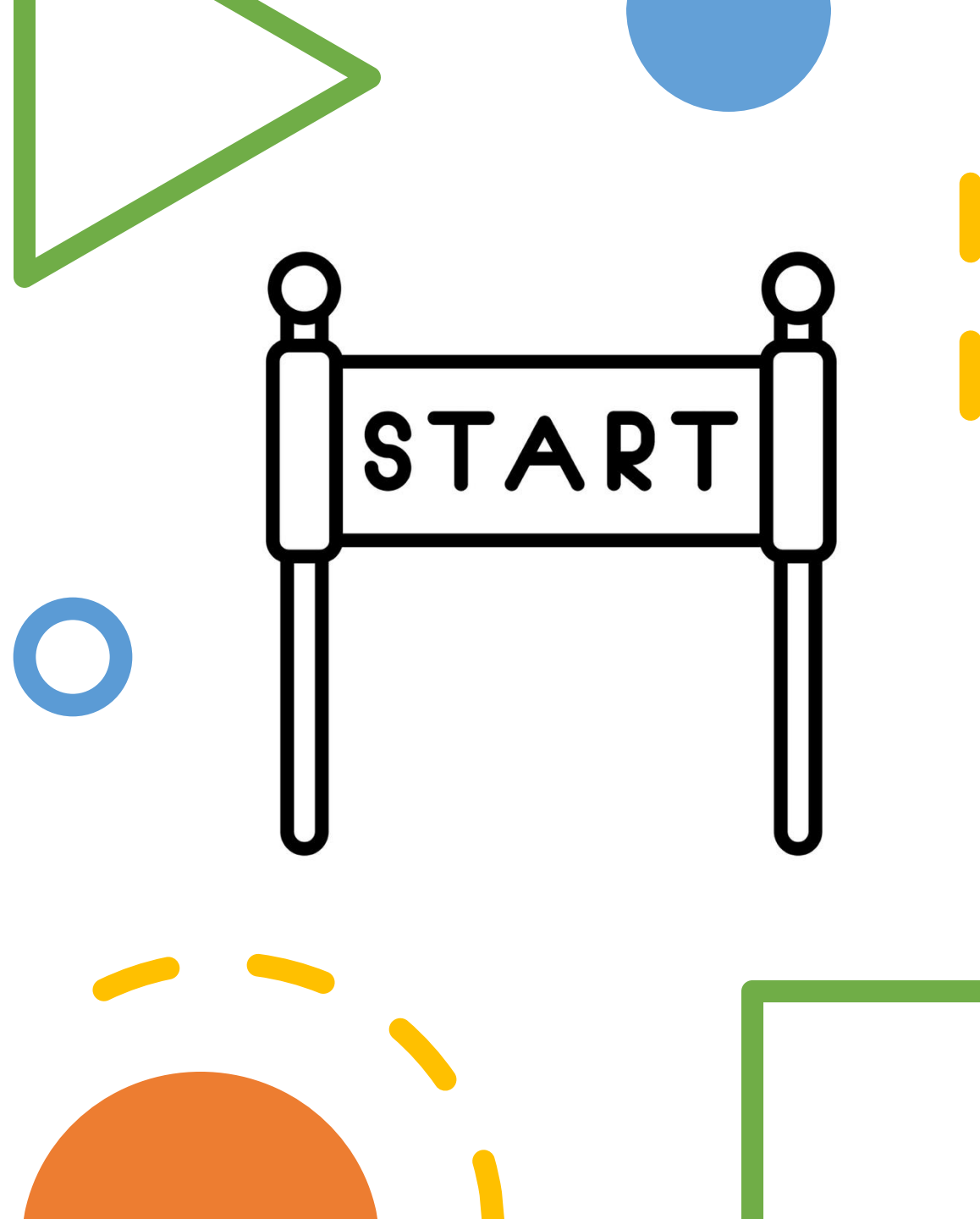


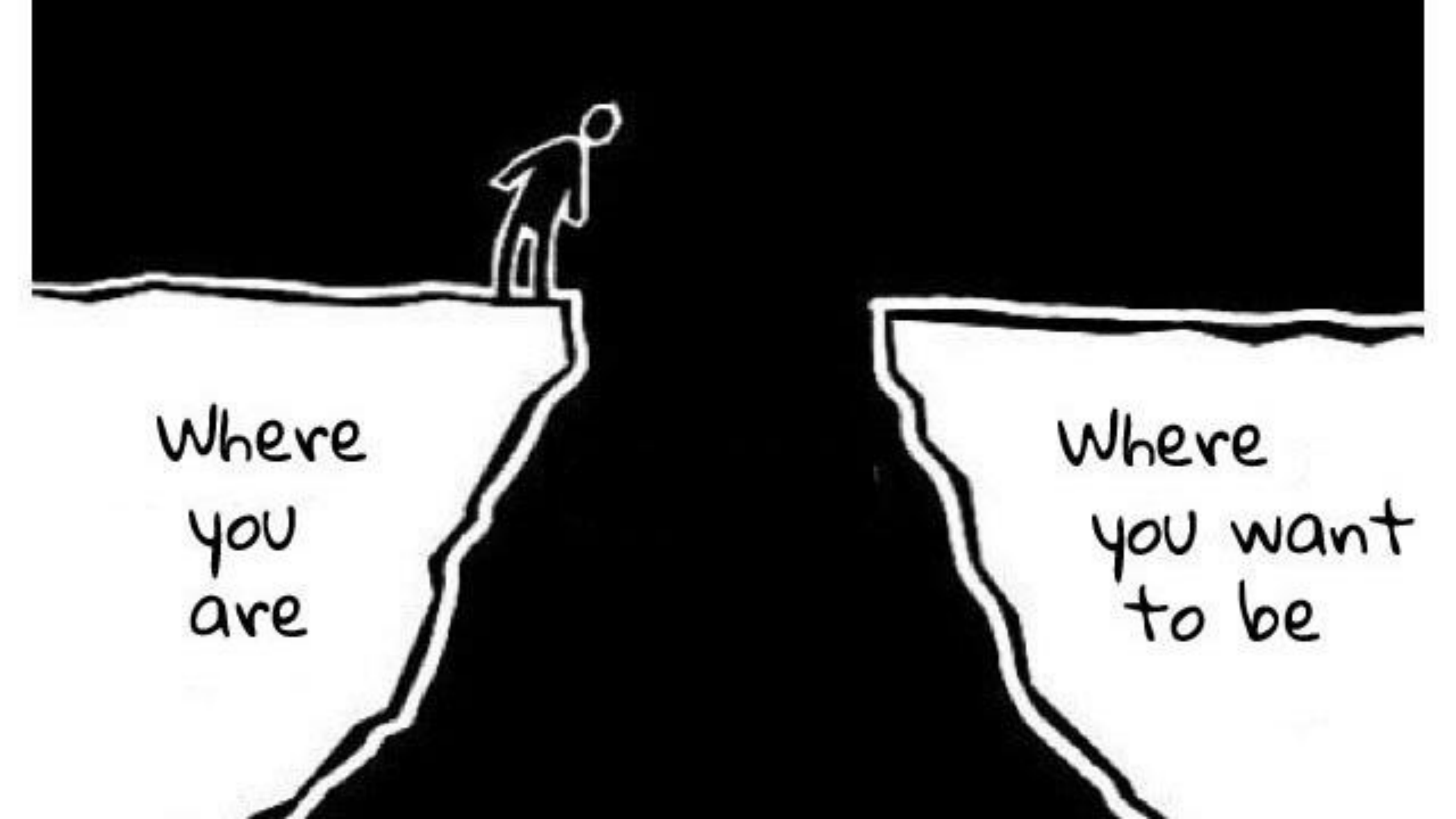


**Getting started:
What you know
and what you
need to do**

Getting started with planning and writing

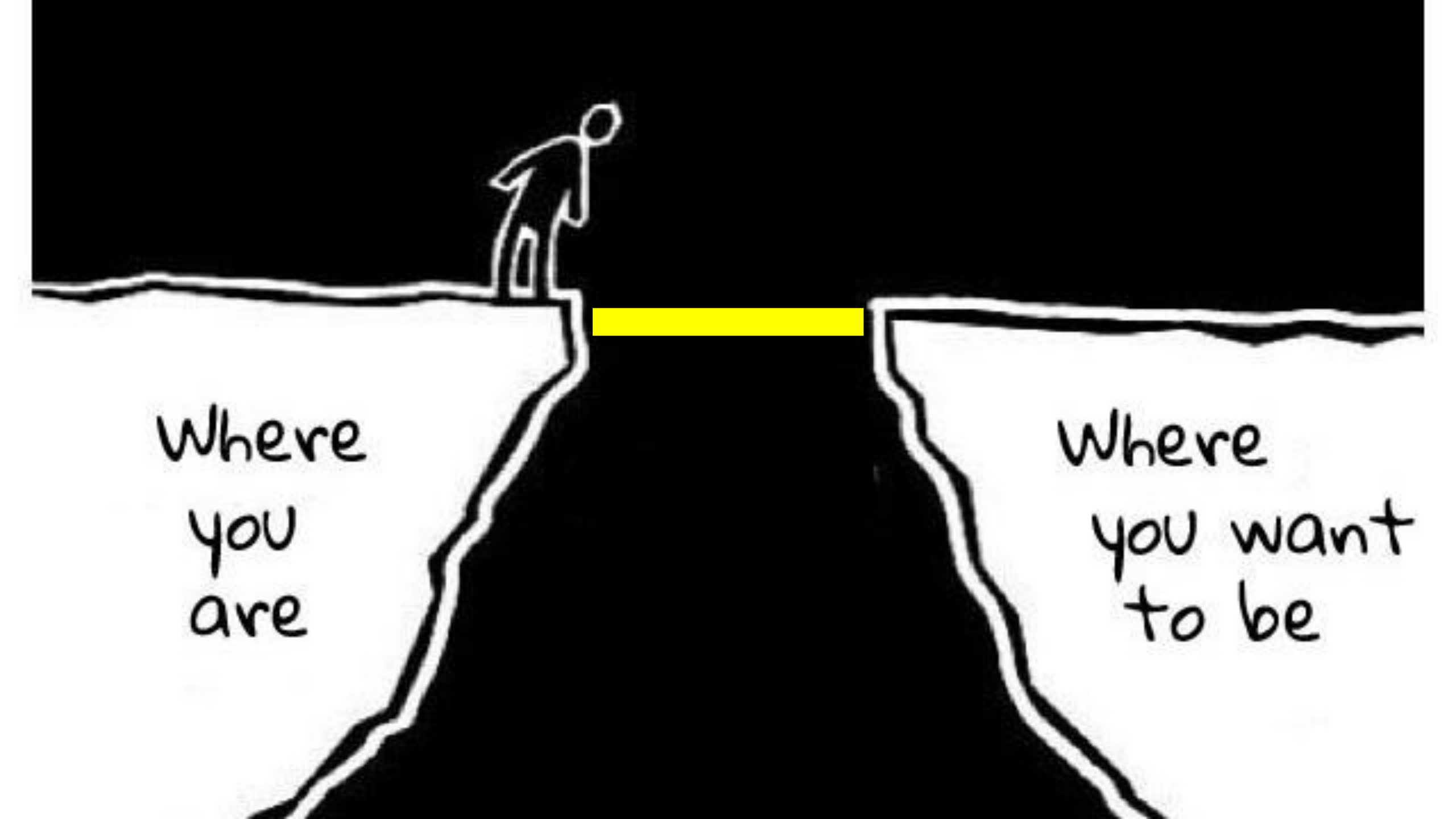
- You should now have some understanding of your topic and relevant literature
- Today we will work on the following sections of your research proposal:
 - Intro and background/rationale
 - Methods
- The process we use here can be used for other sections





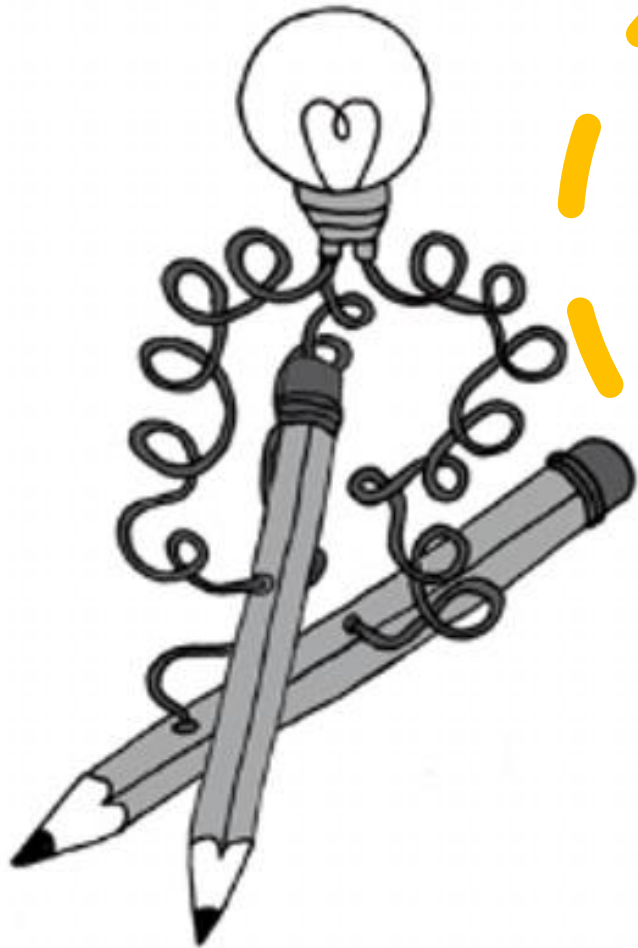
Where
you
are

Where
you want
to be



Where
you
are

Where
you want
to be

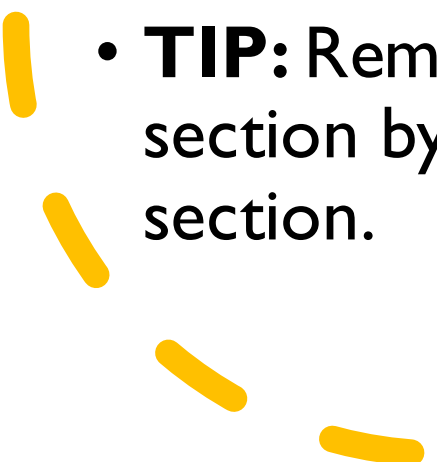


Get writing!

- Thinking and writing are connected
- Writing forces you to put down on paper what you know already
- Helps you identify gaps and what you need to do to address them
- Writing does not have to be perfect first time around
- But you do need to start somewhere



Introduction and background/rationale

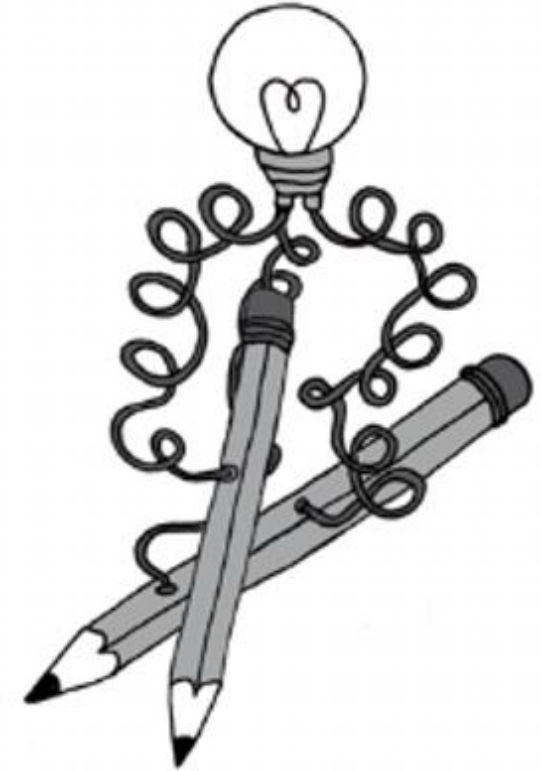
- What is the problem you are addressing? Why does it matter?
 - Drawing on key literature on your topic (use annotated bibliography if MSc) identify what's already been done, what gaps are, what methods, theories, and frameworks have been used
 - Situate your own approach in relation to the above
 - **TIP:** Remember here to **synthesise** across sources and end the section by clearly leading into your aims, question and objectives section.
- 

The Task

- Pick a new person to work with
- Referencing the requirement for each section you have 5 mins to write down:
 - Information you know already
 - Gaps in your knowledge/things you're stuck on
 - What you need to do to come un-stuck

You then have 5 mins each:

- Explain what you have written down to your partner and how you plan to come un-stuck
- Your partner to give feedback on your proposed next steps – do they make sense, any alternative approaches, suggested forms of support? Etc.



Methods

- What is your chosen method (e.g., narrative review, policy analysis, in-depth interviews) and how will this help you answer your question?
- Why is this the most appropriate method?
- Draw on methodological literature (**TIP:** Use further reading lists)
- Are there any ethical issues and do you need ethical approval?



Any questions/reflections?

You can repeat this exercise to help you get started with:

- Research, aims, question and objectives
- Approach to analysis
- Expected contributions





**Wrapping up:
The next month
and a half**

Timeline for the next month and a half

- **2nd of December:** iBSc topic survey submission
- **9th of December:** iBSc supervisor allocation
- **9th of December:** MSc annotated bibliography marks & feedback released
- **10th of December:** Research proposal drop-in (also any questions about feedback)
- **12th of December:** Last day to ask proposal questions and be guaranteed an answer
- **16th of December:** Research proposal submission + MSc topic survey submission
- **Before 20th December:** iBSc students arrange first meeting with supervisors
- **13th of January:** MSc supervisor allocation
- **16th of January:** Research proposal feedback submitted
- **Before 24th January:** MSc students reach out to supervisors to arrange first meeting

Allocation of supervisor

- Day of your ARM I assessment complete the dissertation topic survey (**NB:** iBSc to complete by 2nd of December)
- You can do this even if you have an EC in place – we need basic info on methods, topic to allocate a supervisor.
- Supervisor allocations will be circulated w/c 9th of December for iBSc and 13th January for MSc.



Dissertation topic survey

1. Student number NOT username
2. Your name
3. Draft dissertation title
4. 150 words summarising drafts of your topic, aim, research question, proposed method
5. Any members of staff you have spoken to about your dissertation who you would like to supervise you



First supervisor meeting (iBSc)

- Discuss ideas and make a plan for the next month
- Next steps you need to take to complete proposal, e.g. refining research question, more reading, reflecting on feasibility
- Discuss whether you need ethics and if so, set a deadline together for a draft application (hard deadline is 19th of February for iBSc)
- Complete your dissertation supervisor agreement
- You need to have a date scheduled for your first supervisor meeting by 9th of December at the latest – try to schedule it before the break, and to give you time to get their input on your proposal!



First supervisor meeting (MSc)

- Discuss your ARMI assessment feedback
- Discuss next steps you need to take, e.g. refining research question, more reading, reflecting on feasibility
- Complete your dissertation supervisor agreement
- You need to have reached out to your supervisor by Friday the 24th of January at the latest



Any questions



Global health governance and global health diplomacy

Global Public Health Unit Policy Insight Series

12:30-2pm Wednesday 27th November 2024

Room 2.34, Garrod Building, Turner Street, E1 2AD

**Join us to discuss how to do impactful critical research
on health policymaking!**

This will be a café-style discussion where staff and students share their experiences of doing policy research and perspectives on health policymaking across different contexts.

Lunch provided beforehand, at 12noon in the same room.

