GENERAL TOPIC OF WIDE INTEREST
(Global Warming, Immigration Reform, Cancer, Etc.)

Brief Ref. to Literature I  Brief Ref. to Literature II

“HOWEVER, scholars in these fields have not yet adequately addressed XXX...”

GAP IN KNOWLEDGE
1. Urgency: This gap is bad!!!
2. Hero Narrative: I will fill this gap!!!

YOUR RESEARCH QUESTION
“I am applying XXX to support my research on YYY”

SPECIFICS OF YOUR RESEARCH
(background info, location, history, context, limitations, etc.)

METHODOLOGY
(Discipline specific)

TIMELINE
(Month-by-month plan)

STRONG CONCLUSION!!!!
“I expect this research to contribute to debates on xxx” & “I plan to submit my completed project for publication at ZZZ journal”

Yes, I am totally serious.

Say all this in the first 2 paragraphs!

As many pages as they allow and no more

Adapted from Karen Kelsky’s “Foolproof Research Proposal Template”