

## Planetary Health - Final Group Project

### Research methods proposal template

**Assignment description:** Choose a planetary health issue affecting a particular community or population and prepare a policy brief with recommendations for addressing the issue. You can use [this resource](#) from IDRC as a guide. Preparing the brief will require a thoughtful approach to determine the state of evidence or knowledge on the topic. Here is a template of guiding questions and touchpoints that can help to develop the approach and write the methods proposal. Suggested length: up to 1000 words (4 pages).

**Due: 27 February 2025, by 11:59pm EST (1 per group)**

**Length:** up to 1000 words (4 pages).

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**Group number:**

**Group member names:**

**Proposed topic:**

#### **Literature searches**

- Which databases or search engines will you be using to search for peer-reviewed or grey literature?
- What are the keywords or search terms you will be using? Please also include an example of a combination of search terms with boolean operators.
- Are you applying any language restrictions? (e.g. English only)
- Are you applying any date restrictions? (e.g. 1950 to present)
- For research articles, are you applying any restrictions in terms of type of study (e.g. human studies only, registered clinical trials)?
- Try running the search in one of the peer-reviewed and grey literature databases of choice and describe what comes up - e.g. number of hits, general assessment of the relevance of those hits.
- Describe the strategy for reviewing and abstracting the literature found, for example:
  - scan titles, abstracts and/or full documents for relevance;
  - search reference lists of relevant/key papers for additional sources not captured through the parent search;
  - document the number of sources excluded vs included;
  - Extract relevant information from each included source (e.g. author(s), publication date, relevant contextual evidence/information that will support the policy recommendation)

#### **Key informant interviews (if applicable)**

- Who will be interviewed?
- What is the purpose of the interview?
- What will be the guiding questions for the conversation?

- How will you document the conversation (e.g. recording, note-taking)
- How will you obtain consent from the interviewee to use his/her perspectives/opinions for the purposes of this assignment?

### **Analysis and synthesis**

Describe the approach for analyzing and synthesizing the evidence/information collected from the included sources. For example:

- tabulate the findings and do a quantitative summary (such as number of sources that support X aspect of the argument);
- map the relevant points from key sources and do a narrative summary to build context, highlight the scope of the issue, strengthen the case/argumen, etc. Can also strategically highlight some points that oppose the argument.