REVIEWING A RESEARCH PROPOSAL

WHILE THERE IS NO FIXED STRUCTURE OR GENRE FOR A WRITTEN RESEARCH PROPOSAL, IT WILL GENERALLY CONTAIN CLEAR STATEMENTS AND JUSTIFICATION OF:

Purpose of the research

Rationale

Paradigm

Theoretical framework

Research questions

Literature review

Methods(of data collection and analysis)

Activities, timelines and budget

THE CRITERIA BELOW ARE ADAPTED FROM THOSE GIVEN TO REVIEWERS OF THE AFRICAN JOURNAL OF RESEARCH IN MATHS, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

Guidelines

Is the title appropriate & does it reflect the gist of the proposal

Taken as a whole, is the proposal consistent? eg, is the methodology appropriate to the question and is the question answered in the conclusion

Is the proposed research original, & will it contribute something new to the field?

Is the research question of purpose clearly stated, & is the context in which it is answered made explicit? Is its importance justified?

Does the proposal draw on the latest & most relevant research findings on the topic?

Is it located within a relevant theoretical conceptual framework?

Is it clearly written and organised?

Is the design and planned execution of the methodology adequate in relation to the question?

(depending on the design, this question may have to be answered in a number of ways.

In qualitative designs issues of dependability and interpretation are important.

In quantitative designs, issues or reliability and validity should be considered.)

Are the results likely to answer the question asked?

Will justifiable conclusions be possible?

Is the research likely to yield insight and originality?

Is it likely to be useful (and to whom)?

Does the proposal satisfy accepted criteria for academic writing in terms of coherence, grammar, layout and organisation?

Do the references adhere to APA standards