

## Thesis proposals

A thesis proposal in computing science should address at least the following six points:

1. A statement of the problem and why it should be solved.
  2. Reference to and comments upon relevant work by others on the same or similar problems.
  3. The candidate's ideas and insights for solving the problem and any preliminary result he may have obtained.
  4. A statement or characterisation of what kind of solution is being sought.
  5. A plan of action for the remainder of the research.
  6. A rough outline of the thesis itself.
- 

A thesis proposal should represent a considerable effort [...]

It allows the candidate to 'stake out a claim' in a potentially crowded area.

It provides a good yardstick against which the candidate can measure his own progress or lack of it, and it helps him to focus his energy when he feels he is waffling [...]

**Finally, it helps him to combat the common occupational affliction of Ph.D. students, namely depression.**

H.C. Lauer, The Computer Journal, Vol. 18(3), 1975, p. 279