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How to find a research mentor

- Professor you have had in class doing interesting work
- Brown website of faculty research descriptions
- List of faculty mentors taking students for summer research programs at Brown.
- Talk to your upperclassman friends and colleagues who are doing research
How to approach a research mentor

- Do your homework!
  - Read their research description
  - Look up their publications (you are not expected to be an expert but should have some idea of the research)

Send an email introducing yourself and expressing an interest in working with them

Ask to make an appointment to meet with them to discuss potential projects
How to choose a research mentor

- Meet with the mentor
  - Is he/she someone you feel comfortable approaching
- Find out if she/he has any current students and talk to them
- Different researchers operate differently.
- Find out if you will be directly reporting to them or under the direction of a postdoc, graduate student or research assistant and talk to that person.
How to write a research proposal

- Assemble your resources - your mentor will generally give you some literature and possibly a grant proposal to read.
- Do a literature search to make sure you understand the project and methods you will be using.
- If you have questions email your mentor or arrange to meet with them to discuss your questions.
- DO NOT cut and paste from your mentor’s proposal into your own proposal - it should be written in your own words.
SRA proposals

- Maximum of 3 page description of the research project
- Maximum 1 page statement of your background including relevant courses and any previous research experience. A statement of how this project fits into your educational goals. Do you plan to continue the research during the academic year?
SRA proposals

- Abstract or Summary of the project (1 paragraph).
- Background- what previous research is the project based on- including work by your mentor (1/2 page)
- *Hypothesis- what is the research question that you are asking. (1 paragraph)
- Methods- how are you approaching your hypothesis. What techniques are you using (1/2 page)
- Results- what kind of data do you expect and how are you going to analyze that data (1/2 page)