Like the search journal exercise in relation to the annotated bibliography, the elevator story assignment really is a part of the process of developing a research proposal. Despite its brevity, do still write it down, and keep to its colloquial description: if you were to describe your research project to someone within the space of an elevator ride, how would you do it?

The key factor here is not the number of words nor sentences: it is time of delivery. Write your statement so that you can deliver it without rushing within 30 seconds. Note that this is actually a lot more time than a typical 4–5 story elevator ride!

*Hint hint:* It helps to have some of your proposal draft already written before you put together your elevator story—it’s easier to develop something in detail then distill it to its essentials than to go straight to a summary statement without having fleshed things out first.