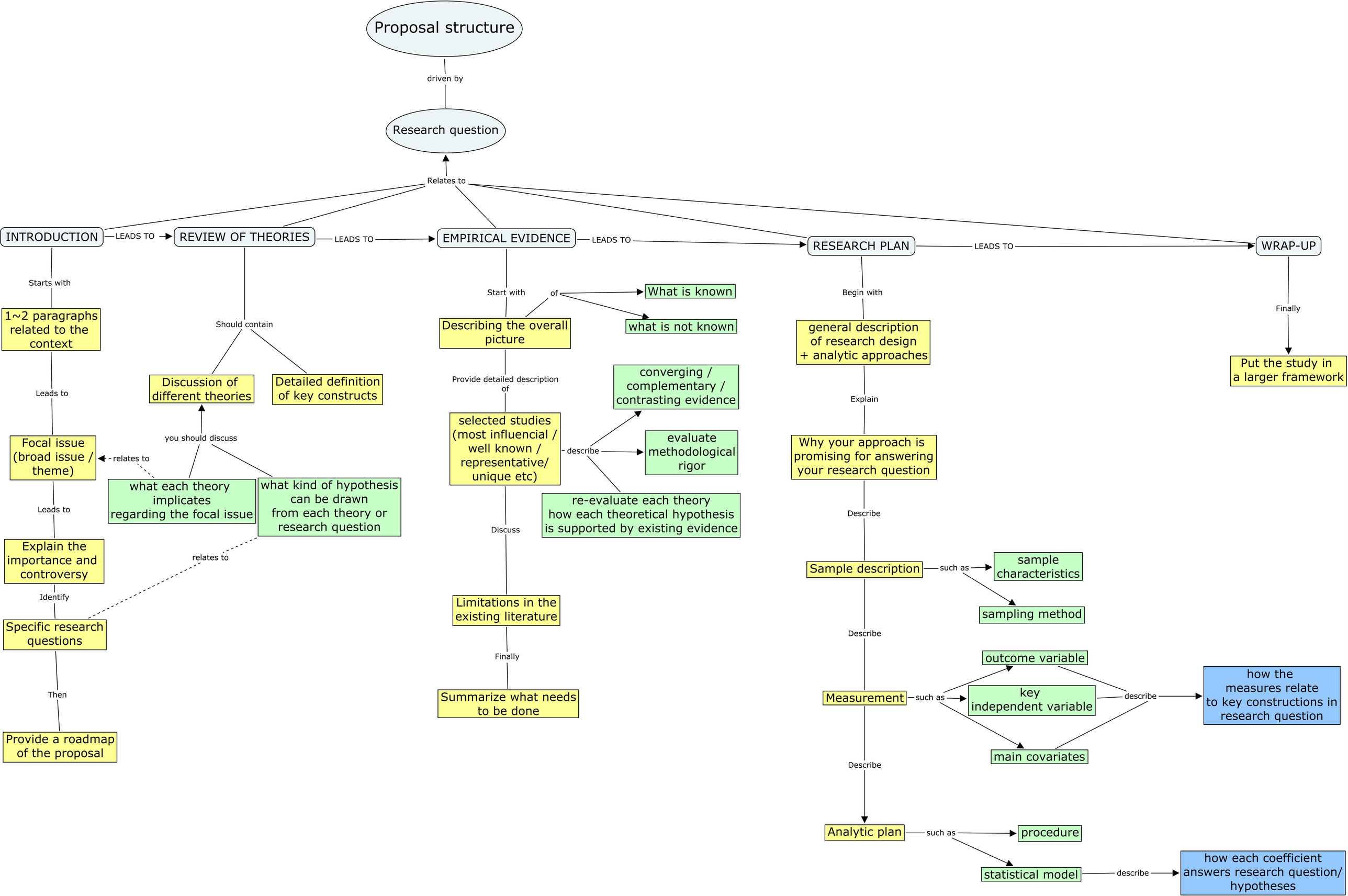
Proposal structure
driven by
Research question
Relates to
INTRODUCTION
LEADS TO
REVIEW OF THEORIES
LEADS TO
EMPIRICAL EVIDENCE
LEADS TO
RESEARCH PLAN
LEADS TO
WRAP-UP
Starts with
1~2 paragraphs related to the context
Leads to
Focal issue (broad issue / theme)
Leads to
Explain the importance and controversy
Identify
Specific research questions
Then
Provide a roadmap of the proposal
Should contain
Discussion of different theories
Detailed definition of key constructs
you should discuss
relates to
what each theory implicates regarding the focal issue
what kind of hypothesis can be drawn from each theory or research question
relates to
Start with
Describing the overall picture
of
What is known
what is not known
Provide detailed description of
selected studies (most influencial / well known / representative/ unique etc)
describe
converging / complementary / contrasting evidence
evaluate methodological rigor
re-evaluate each theory how each theoretical hypothesis is supported by existing evidence
Discuss
Limitations in the existing literature
Finally
Summarize what needs to be done
Begin with
general description of research design + analytic approaches
Explain
Why your approach is promising for answering your research question
Describe
Sample description
such as
sample characteristics
sampling method
Describe
Measurement
such as
outcome variable
key independent variable
main covariates
describe
how the measures relate to key constructions in research question
Describe
Analytic plan
such as
procedure
statistical model
describe
how each coefficient answers research question/ hypotheses
Finally
Put the study in a larger framework