

Research Paper Proposal

In a brief memo addressed to your instructor propose a topic for your research/synthesis paper and include a brief discussion of how you might approach this topic.

Please discuss the following (in numbered paragraphs):

1. Your general topic. In no more than three sentences, what do you expect to write about? Be specific; be concise.
2. Your intended audience. Who, specifically, are you writing to? If you say, “anyone who is interested in this topic” or “anyone who is reading this paper,” that means you don’t have a clue who your audience is.
3. Your voice. Informer? Advocate? What do you mean when you say that?
4. Your tentative thesis. This will be one single declarative sentence that sums up your paper (so far as you are able at this point).

Mechanical Details

Length: One page

Format: Standard MLA format. (12-point Times Roman type, double-spaced, 1” margin all around, MLA header.)

Submitting the paper

- The English Department wants electronic copies of all your essays this semester, so please upload the final product to the drop box in Blackboard. Some students (especially those who use Google Docs) have trouble figuring out how to do this, so ask if you are uncertain how to proceed!
- If you have any trouble getting the Blackboard upload to work, simply print a copy and bring it to class.

Due Date

- **Final copy:** Wednesday, October 30, 2019

This assignment is worth 25 points.

You will not receive credit if you submit this after Wednesday, November 6, 2019.

The next three short assignments will all focus on preparing you for the large final research/synthesis paper, due at the end of the course. Because these are preparatory assignments, there’s no point in submitting them at the end of the course, so late paper credit will be restricted.