

Research Paper Proposal and Outline

Planning and Organizing

Thus far this semester we have focused on the general format of American academic writing, on the paragraph and the essay level. We have also worked on developing research skills using the university library system. Now it is time to "get down to business." You need to make a plan for writing, revising, and editing your [research paper](#). This is the purpose of this assignment.

On **Tuesday, November 3** you will **turn in a proposal** of the paper you plan to write and complete by Tuesday, December 8, 2009. The proposal should be **one to two pages long** and have **three specific parts**:

1	<p>The <u>first part includes three paragraphs</u>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>In the first paragraph</u> you should identify your topic and explain why you chose this topic. Be sure to write this in the main idea-support pattern we have discussed, using plenty of details to explain your choice. • <u>In the second paragraph</u>, you should identify your research question and the working thesis you developed from it. Be sure to explain why you want to use it. • <u>In the third paragraph</u>, you should present reasons/ideas why you think your working thesis is true or valid. This paragraph should also mention a source you have found and read related to your topic and give a very brief summary of the information available in it. 												
2	<p>The second part of proposal is an outline of the ideas you plan to present in your research paper. Write this outline using the ideas and material you have now; as you work to gather more information and develop your ideas, the outline will probably change, but I want to see what you have planned now based on the material you have collected so far...or plan to collect.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be prepared to make an informal, in-class presentation of this outline on Tuesday, November 3, 2009. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ You need to be able to tell us (no handouts/visual aids needed: simply talk) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ your working thesis and ▪ the main ideas you plan to present in the body of your paper 												
3	<p>The third part of the proposal is a schedule of the work you will do this for the research paper and when you will do it. You must include information about when you will conduct research (find sources), read your sources, take notes, begin writing your outline. Refer to the following list for specific information that must be included (you need to set specific dates for completion of each task).</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="background-color: #f4a460;">TASK</th> <th style="background-color: #f4a460;">WORK DATES</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Do additional research - find new/different sources - reading and note taking - revise outline</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Write first draft -- quotes not needed</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Do more research</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Write second draft -- must include quotes</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Write final draft</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	TASK	WORK DATES	Do additional research - find new/different sources - reading and note taking - revise outline		Write first draft -- quotes not needed		Do more research		Write second draft -- must include quotes		Write final draft	
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