

### PROJECT #3: RESEARCH PROPOSAL

**SUBMISSION METHOD:** Upload to iCollege Submission Folder (Word documents ONLY)

**DUE:** THU 12 JULY 2018 by 11:59pm

**EVALUATION:** 100 points possible; worth 5% of your final grade  
see associated rubric for specific evaluation criteria

At this point in your academic career, you should be able to develop and accomplish original intellectual work. To that end, your efforts throughout the semester will be successive and each major assignment you do will build toward your final project, an argumentative/research paper.

You've been asked to choose a topic in which *you* are interested to write about for your final supported argument essay. Be sure to **run this topic by the instructor before you start working on the project**. Think about your intended research and how you plan to develop your argument and write a formal research proposal. Specifically, you must consider what question compels you, how you intend to research that question, and how you will test the evidence you uncover against that question. Ultimately, you will revise your hypothesis and write your final paper based on your research.

I am asking you to write a research proposal for a few reasons. Primarily, you need to be thinking ahead about what your intended topic and questions are, why this research is important, and how you'll go about investigating the issue. Your research proposal, then, will serve as a sort of map or guide for you and allow me the opportunity to review your process with you. I will offer suggestions, ask you to narrow or broaden your topic, and provide feedback. This skill is one that you will utilize in any field and major you pursue and is one that you should become proficient in.

#### The Nuts and Bolts

- Brainstorm—jot down ideas about your topic, how you plan to extend and develop your multimodal project argument, and also how you think you'll conduct your research and any obstacles you think you might encounter.
- This is a recursive project—as you encounter evidence, your project will transform. **This is both good and expected.**
- Begin drafting your plan—write down what steps you think you will take in your research, and begin putting your ideas into the Research Proposal format.

**\*\*You will not follow the standard five paragraph essay format in the Research Proposal, as this is a different sort of assignment.\*\***

#### Elements

- Introduction
  - a. You'll introduce your topic in this section, discussing the research question and its significance. You are answering, in this section:
    - i. What you want to study
    - ii. Why this is worth studying
    - iii. Does this study contribute to a new understanding of an issue?
    - iv. Does your study have theoretical or practical significance?

- b. Literature review
  - i. What sources do you plan to consult for this essay? In this section, you'll note some of the significant research you plan on looking at and why. This sets a theoretical framework for you and also shows how you'll enter the *conversation* we keep referring to. (Yes, you can include research in the project that isn't in the lit review section of your proposal.)
- c. Research question
  - i. Your specific research question (or questions)—whatever you are trying to discover or uncover—goes in this section. There may be more than one. (Again, this may well change as you do research—this is to be expected! But it needs to be clearly stated at the outset so you have a focus and guide for your research.)
- Methods
  - a. You will outline in this section how you intend to conduct your research. This involves thinking and planning ahead. Will your research involve going to the library? What about going to a local animal shelter for interviews? Do you need to take video or photographs of an incident? Whatever steps you imagine you need to take to thoroughly research your topic, list them here.
  - b. Not only will you describe how you'll conduct your research, but you must make sure to include data collection methods. Are you conducting a meta-analysis of various scholarly articles? Indicate this. Are you conducting a survey among your Facebook friends? Indicate this, and so forth. Then, make sure to include how you will analyze your data.

*This assignment connects to the course Learning Outcomes 1-5 & 7.*

#### RESEARCH PROPOSAL RUBRIC

|  | 4: Accomplished | 3: Competent | 2: Developing | 1: Beginning/<br>absent |
|--|-----------------|--------------|---------------|-------------------------|
| Follows indicated formatting as assigned         |                 |              |               |                         |
| Has clearly stated research question(s) & thesis |                 |              |               |                         |
| Shows thoughtful consideration of topic          |                 |              |               |                         |
| Includes a clear research plan to develop topic  |                 |              |               |                         |

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR FORMATTING NOTES

Name

Course

Instructor

Due Date

Descriptive Title of Project (make it interesting!)

## **INTRODUCTION**

[Text here in paragraph format, including first-line indentions. Use more than one paragraph if needed. It should end with YOUR PROPOSED THESIS STATEMENT. You CAN reuse some or all of this in your essay introduction if you like!]

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

[Summarize the research you have done so far in paragraph form—we will look at some of these in class]

## **RESEARCH QUESTION(S)**

[Research question(s) go here]

## **METHODOLOGY**

[in paragraph form, describe the research methods you intend to employ for this project]

[in a new paragraph, describe how you intend to analyze/ quantify the data you collect]

### **FORMATTING NOTES:**

- 12-pt Times New Roman or Arial font
- 1" Margins (except header)
- Header w/ Last Name & Page Number
- MLA-style title block on first page
- Section headings are all caps & **Bold**