

Proposal for Final Paper

Deadlines:

Wednesday, March 18: Rough draft due for voluntary conferences

Monday, March 23: Complete draft of proposal due for peer review

Wednesday, March 25: Final draft of proposal due

Length: 750-1250 words, not including works cited page (proposals outside of this range will be penalized)

Value: 10% of final grade

Assignment

So far this semester, you've been doing research on a problematic issue in order to learn more about it. Your final project for this course will ask you to continue your research in order to argue for a solution to that same problem, but before you begin your final project, you'll need to write a short research proposal to prove to your instructor that your topic is practical and worthwhile.

Your proposal should guide you toward a more successful final paper by helping you to think through your ideas more thoroughly. The more work you do on this assignment, the better prepared you'll be to write an effective and successful final essay. Often, writers find that they need to get their ideas on paper in order to work with them effectively, and you will very likely discover new ideas as you write the proposal. Many scholars at universities also write proposals, often to get funding and/or permission to engage in research, and professionals outside of the university write proposals for similar reasons as well. **This proposal should not be used to argue your solution; instead, you are simply describing the problem you've been researching, explaining a tentative solution to that problem, and outlining a plan you can follow to complete your final essay.**

Content

Your proposal must include the following clearly labeled components:

Part I. Description, background, cause, and significance of the problem: In this section, you will give your problem presence by describing the problem and explaining its significance. This is also a place to present any problematic questions associated with your topic. Which issues are experts on the topic or those affected by the problem arguing about or struggling with? (20% of grade)

Part II. Statement of your tentative solution: Although you will continue to research solutions to your problem throughout the semester, you should present a tentative solution to your problem here. This can be revised in the future, but your tentative solution should be specific enough so that it seems practical and realistic to your reader (your instructor). (10% of grade)

Part III. Analysis of the audience you are trying to convince, as well as how you might use the three rhetorical appeals to connect with this audience: While your audience for the proposal is your instructor, your audience for your final paper should be a discourse community that is interested in or affected by the problem you are attempting to solve. (10% of grade)

Part IV. Description of the sources and research methods you have used and plan to use to complete your research: This section of the proposal should convince your reader that you have conducted credible, relevant research so far by briefly discussing some of your most important sources. Be specific in naming, describing and citing your sources, but remember to be concise as well. (10% of grade)

Part V. Description of counterarguments or opposing views to your solution: Why might some people oppose your tentative solution? What research could you use to address these opposing views? (10% of grade)

Part VI. Conclusion: Your conclusion should clearly and succinctly encourage your reader to accept your plan for your final essay. (10% of grade)

Part VII. MLA-formatted works cited page. (10% of grade)

The remaining 20% of your grade will come from organization/document design (10%)(see below) and evidence of correct grammar and thorough proofreading (10%).

Research Requirements

Your proposal should use at least four credible sources to describe your topic, provide background, explain significance, and possibly support your tentative solution. All sources should be cited within the text and in your works cited page. Failure to include at least four credible sources will affect the grade of Part I.

Organization

A proposal such as this often places emphasis on efficient, concise writing and clear document design to allow quicker reading for a busy audience. Utilizing document design features such as block formatting, headings, and bullet points will help increase this efficiency, and you will be graded on the clarity of your document.