Senior Project

Research Proposal

For many students, really for anyone, researching a topic for several weeks and writing a lengthy paper can feel overwhelming. One of the best ways to attack this project is to start by considering what you already know, what you hope to learn, and how you plan to go about learning it. This gives you a clear point from which to begin your research and helps you to determine what’s realistic in terms of your exploration.

**What should I include in my research proposal?**

**Context**

Explain why you are choosing this topic. This might come in the form of a personal story, an article that you read or something that you heard about in another class; it will be different for each one of you. This section should include your guiding question—what you will answer through your research.

**Subtopics**

Include some of the subquestions that you’re planning to discuss; these questions should stem from your guiding question. You might use your TED Talks document and/or brainstorming questions document to help you here.

**Sources**

Share at least two credible sources that you’re planning to use. This means that you need to do some preliminary research to see what’s out there for your topic. Name each source and explain why it’s credible in a few sentences. Consider what types of sources would be good for your project (books, journal articles, interviews, videos, etc.).

**Challenges**

Discuss obstacles that you might face while working on this process. I understand that you will not know all of the stumbling blocks in your way until you’re fully immersed in the research, but, certainly, you can think of some possible hurdles and how you might overcome them. Refer to your possible topics sheet to help you with this. Add detail to the obstacles that you named on your potential topics document. Please avoid naming writing the paper as a challenge; instead consider the challenges you might face **researching** your specific topic.

**What’s the required length?**

A fully developed research proposal will be several well-developed paragraphs. Be sure that you fully address each of the above-listed sections.

**When is the proposal due?**

Friday, April 3 (uploaded to Schoology by 11:59 p.m.)

**How will I be assessed?**

For this assignment, you either meet the requirements or you do not. If you meet the requirements, you will earn full credit; if you do not, you will be asked to redo the assignment.

**To earn full credit, your proposal will** need to demonstrate thought and careful consideration in each of the above-listed sections. The proposal must include a strong driving question. The question should be focused, researchable and able to support a lengthy research process. The proposal must be well organized and show consideration for audience. The proposal must be edited and carefully explain any terminology that you use.