

Research Proposal

In this research proposal, introduce the topic *you* want to study—the research question you want to ask—and describe how you plan to conduct that study over the course of the next weeks. You may write this research proposal individually or, if you want to pursue a shared research question with someone else in the class, in pairs as you together determine a shared research plan.

Write 2-4 pages discussing your research question, summarizing the research you have conducted so far (include a full bibliography), and describing your plan for future research. Submit your research proposal via email by midnight Wednesday, October 21.

Research Question

First, state your research question: what do you want to know and why do you want to know that? Describe the process by which you came to this question, perhaps even describing questions you asked earlier but then discarded for whatever reason. You may have read articles relevant to an earlier question (use what you wrote in your research journals here) and then realized you were not actually interested in where that question would take you. You might also indicate here the "non-scholarly" sources that have helped you come to the question you want to ask. Online message boards, Wikipedia articles, conversations with friends, past experiences, and other difficult-to-cite sources may have contributed to your current interest, so reveal them here.

Research Summary

Summarize what you already know about this subject: what have you read or experienced that has helped point you in this direction? Mine your research journals for relevant pieces you have already read, and cite our shared class texts if they are relevant. Based on your current research, also indicate your what arguable claim you think you will make in the end.

Research Plan

If you are working in a pair, indicate how the two of you will plan to take different paths: where will you diverge as individuals with one shared topic? Regardless, describe your plan for conducting future research: what books or articles will you request by ILL, what search strings will you plug into what search engines, what people will you interview, etc?

Research Bibliography

List the full citations for all works referenced in your research summary and mentioned as useful for future research in your methodology section. Use MLA format for these citations.