

Short Research Proposal

(Single-spaced in business format with the headings provided below)

1) The Main Issue or Problem:

Introduce the issue or problem that your research paper will focus on and attempt to resolve. Elaborate on the relevance of the issue and its complexity.

2) The Central Question (or Questions) and Your Provisional Thesis (if any):

Present your research issue or problem in the form of a question or set of questions that you will attempt to answer.

Also, indicate whether or not you have a provisional thesis or argument. If so, explain why, and note any counterarguments or opposing views you will need to address.

3) Why the Issue Is Compelling to You:

Elaborate on why your research issue is compelling you. What is the source of your interest in it? What personal experience with the issue, or connection to it, do you have (if any)? Is it relevant to your academic major and/or your career interests?

4) What You Already Know about the Issue and Need to Know:

Describe what you already know about the issue.

Explain what more you need to learn.

5) Your Intended Audience:

Describe your intended audience. Is it general, specialized or both?

If your audience is specialized, discuss the broader implications of your project and its underlying relevance to people in general.

6) Overview of Sources:

Give a preliminary list of primary and secondary sources you intend to use.

Primary sources include various forms of “field research” – interviews, surveys, focus groups, discussion boards – as well as original documents.

Secondary sources include books, professional and scholarly journals, newspapers and magazines, etc.

The more specific this section is the better. Spending some time in the library will be necessary.



The proposal will be evaluated for clarity and thoroughness. A professional presentation and good writing is expected.

Due date: TBA