

ENGL 124: Research Proposal

For the rest of the term, you will be involved in a research process that starts with (1) a proposal, continues with (2) an annotated bibliography in the middle, and finally leads to (3) a 10-12 page **researched argumentative essay** and a presentation.

Note: Your research paper should not be just exploratory and informative. Of course, you will explore a topic and collect information and ideas, and thus learn about the topic substantially in the process, but the main objective is to develop an argument based on your research. So, develop your proposal in such a way that you could formulate an argument. It means, you will read about the topic and understand the whole conversation that people are having about it. Your goal is not merely to collect those ideas that others have written but to participate in that conversation with your own argument.

As the first major step of the project, please compose your research proposal. Your proposal should have at least the following components and must meet the length requirement as specified in each section.

- 1. Topic:** What is going to be your topic?
When determining the topic, please be mindful of its scope and relevance. Your topic should be suitable for a 10-12 research paper. You can start with a subject such as globalization, and then must move to a more specific aspect of the subject to find a topic. So, a topic is narrower than a subject in its scope. For instance, “the impact of globalization on manufacturing jobs in Delaware,” or “privacy in the Internet age” are some of the topic examples.
- 2. Introduction and Overview** (at least two paragraphs; 300-400 words)
Use this space to introduce your topic and demonstrate that you have done the homework to propose this topic. Highlight the larger issues and context of the topic. You can give historical information or/and major current arguments on the topic. You can highlight the latest scholarly conversation on your topic or discuss the socio-cultural context from which your question arises. So, the purpose is to orient your readers to a situation that makes them understand your topic and purpose clearly. Make sure you cite (paraphrasing is the best at this point) **at least three sources** (not necessarily scholarly at this point). In the best-case scenario, the overview should give readers a solid sense of the topic and lead this proposal to a research question naturally.
- 3. Research Question** (a specific question that you plan to answer through your research.) It should not be too specific—like, how many new websites are there every minute? —because you can answer that kind of question without much research. It also should not be too broad—like, what is the impact of globalization on American economy? —because that would take longer time to complete the research.
Besides the main questions, there can be secondary related questions. Please state those questions as well.
- 4. Hypothesis:** What do you think your tentative answer would be to the question you raised? Why?
If you observe closely, the word “thesis” is hidden in “hypothesis.” So, your answer should read like a thesis. It means, it should be a complex statement with your views. If you are not sure how to craft a powerful thesis, please check out this website: <https://writingcenter.fas.harvard.edu/pages/developing->

[thesis#:~:text=A%20good%20thesis%20has%20two,going%20where%20in%20your%20essay.&text=First%2C%20analyze%20your%20primary%20sources,controversy%2C%20and%20for%20complication.](#)

5. **Significance of the Study (at least 150 words):** So, what? Why should stakeholders care about your topic and research? What is there to be gained if the stakeholders follow your argument? What do you expect to contribute? Why does it matter at all? What fresh thinking do you want to bring to the scholarly conversation? Explain.
6. **Method:** What would you do to answer your question? For this paper, you are required to read at least 10 latest academic journal articles and book chapters. So, your primary research method is going to be secondary library research. Write a few sentences describing how you will go about it. Be as concrete as possible.
7. **Delimitation:** Even in the best of situations, you cannot cover everything about the topic. What would you be covering? What won't you be covering? What is the boundary of your research project? What limitations will remain there that you do not expect to explore now?
8. **Challenges:** What challenges do you anticipate? How can I as your instructor help you achieve your research and writing goals? (Be concrete and detailed.)
9. **Personal Reasons for Selecting the Topic (100 words Required.)**