

ENG 102 Composition II

Unit Five

Creating Proposal and Working Bibliography



The Proposal: This is considered the first formal document of your research

- Write this document in the first person in terms of what you intend to do. For example, one paragraph might begin: I propose to examine the position that gay marriages should not be legalized
- State how you plan to prove this point. For instance—through in depth research and interviews, I will . . .
- Consider beginning this Research Proposal with an anecdote that ties in directly with your subject; pull a reader into your plan while clarifying for yourself a clear direction.
 - Name, date, course #, and instructor's name in the upper left hand corner
 - Label the page: "Research Proposal"
 - Double spaced, typed, size 12 font in proper paragraphed form
 - Aim for roughly 250-300 words
 - Proofread carefully

Working Bibliography:

Your bibliography is a listed collection of possibilities. These are sources that you have scanned after exploring the library's books and databases as well as the internet.

Collect varied sources that *may* work for your research. Remember that it is a *Working Bib* and will change as you begin writing your paper; you will eliminate and add sources.

- ✓ Make sure that **full** bibliographical information is included for each source.
Include full web addresses, for instance, for internet searches.
- ✓ Include Primary and Secondary sources.

Heading:

- Name, date, course #, and instructor's name in the upper left hand corner
- Label the page: "Working Bibliography"

READ THE FOLLOWING CAREFULLY TO ASSIST YOU IN CREATING YOUR PROPOSAL

FORMING THE RESEARCH QUESTION AND PROPOSAL

- AT THIS POINT YOU SHOULD BE THINKING OF A TOPIC AND MOVING ON TO NARROWING THAT TOPIC TO A SPECIFIC RESEARCHABLE CLAIM.
- **Avoid predictable topics too frequently heard of in the media: abortion, euthanasia, gun control, marijuana issues, capital punishment. Select issues that matter to YOU.**

CREATING A SOLID RESEARCH QUESTION:

ONCE A TOPIC HAS BEEN SELECTED, THE RESEARCH QUESTION BECOMES VITAL AS YOU WORK TOWARD RESPONDING TO THAT QUESTION IN YOUR RESEARCHED ARGUMENT.

Find a Topic:

Consider issues discussed thus far. Keep in mind that the issue must matter to you. By now you also know that your topic must be controversial/argumentative. By now class *Discussions* should have led you to a narrowed topic.

A Good Question:

- Excites curiosity
- Avoids a simply yes/no answer and considers researchable views
- States a clear purpose and a lucid argument
- Has boundaries—a focused essay can be developed in 7-10 pages.
- Considers information from various sources keeping the writer's point of view at the forefront
- States a clear purpose and a lucid argument

Explain your purpose in the Research Proposal. It--

- clarifies the topic.
- analyzes the issues.
- sways the reader with varied, compelling evidence.

Your Claim:

- Your wording should state the topic and take on the issue as well as your selected approach. Are you, for instance *proposing* changes?
- May point to a general, specialized, or expert audience.

- YOU SHOULD BE WORKING ON A SUMMARY OF THE RESEARCH PAPER, REVIEW THIS AS YOU CREATE A FULLER RESEARCH PROPOSAL.

A good proposal should have:

- A clear subject (beyond the topic) with brief background information
- A narrowed topic
- A working claim (one that offers some flexibility since, as research continues, you may modify it a bit)
- Awareness of the level of the audience
- A plan for locating appropriate sources