

## Term Paper Proposal Assignment

For this assignment, you will be writing a short (about 2 pages) essay that identifies the topic for your term paper, discusses your plans for researching the topic, and explains why you have decided to investigate it. The essay should address the following questions:

1. What, specifically, is your topic? With the understanding that your topic may evolve as your research progresses, describe in as much detail as possible the topic you plan to examine for your term paper. If you have a specific thesis at this point in the project, you can discuss it as well; if not, present some possible argumentative positions that you may consider in refining a more specific thesis.
2. Why did you choose this topic? Describe the reasons why you have chosen this topic—personal or career interest, special knowledge, intellectual curiosity, current relevance, etc. If you have a particular background or scholarly work that attracted you to the topic, you can describe it as well.
3. What do you think will be the greatest challenges in writing on this topic—resources, narrowing it down to a more specific area of inquiry, thesis development, etc.? How do you plan to deal with these challenges in your research and writing?
4. Lastly, what are your immediate plans for researching the topic? Where are you going to look for information on the topic—books, journals, websites, etc.? Provide some initial “research questions” that you feel you will need to answer to successfully deal with the topic you have selected.

As always, you should consider the above as material for your proposal essay and not an outline per se. Feel free to provide additional areas of discussion as long as they are relevant to a topic proposal. Although this may be a relatively low point value assignment (5%), it is an essential means for your tutorial leader to provide feedback and suggestions on your topic, so please take it seriously and do your best to get a solid start on the larger term project. As always, if you have questions, do not hesitate to contact your tutorial leader for additional help; we will also work on topic selection issues in tutorial in the coming weeks.

**Essay should be no less than 2 pages (double-spaced, 12 point Times or Times New Roman, 1” margins). You do not need a title page, but there is also no need for excessive header space—just make sure your name and tutorial leader’s name are on the essay.**