

## Researched Essay Proposal - Guidelines

- The proposal is due (TBA). Bring two copies to class on the due date – one for the instructor and one for a classmate to review.
- Note no researched essay will be accepted unless a proposal is submitted to the instructor and approved.
- Write the proposal in business format (i.e. use single-spacing and block paragraphs).
- Organize the proposal using the sections and headings below:

1) The Central Issue (question or problem) that you will address and research

2) The Thesis or Main Argument that you intend to support

If you have ambivalent views about the issue and are not sure of your thesis at this time, specify the question that you want the paper to answer and how you foresee answering it.

3) Reasons for Selecting the Issue (i.e. question or problem)

Elaborate on your interest in the issue, and your personal connection to it. Why is the issue relevant to you? Why do you think it can or should be relevant to your readers?

Note that this is a crucial part of your proposal. Discuss your reasons and the relevance of the issue in detail.

4) Sources

Give a preliminary list of the sources you intend to use—books, journals, magazines, etc. Consider possible primary sources (in particular, people you might talk to or interview).

Use correct MLA format. If the source is available online, include the URL after the other, relevant information. Beneath each source, write a short statement summarizing the material and your assessment of the source's reliability, credibility, angle of vision. Also, ask yourself: is this source making an argument or merely providing objective information?

To complete section 4 effectively, you will need to review the "MLA Documentation" chapter in your "Everyday Writer" handbook and spend some time in the library.