

Major Assignment 3: Revised Research Proposal/First Draft

Proposed Due Date: 10/11

What It's Worth: 100 points

"At painful times, when composition is impossible and reading is not enough, grammars and dictionaries are excellent for distraction."

- Elizabeth Barrett Browning

◆ The Purpose

In your Initial Research Proposal, you set out to draft a research question based on an area of interest within a specific discourse community that you care about.

Thereafter, you conducted some more thorough research and created an Annotated Bibliography to familiarize yourself more with the broader conversation surrounding your research niche. Now that you have spent some time immersing yourself in that conversation, you will most likely have to evolve in response to this new information.

This assignment will give you a chance to frame your research project overall. Here, you will outline what your Final Research Paper will look like and how you plan on conducting primary research. Whether you are conducting an interview, a textual analysis, a survey, a case study, or anything of the sort, you will be able to address your plan of action for your project.

◆ **The Content**

You will be revising and adding to your Initial Research Proposal and your Annotated Bibliography by starting to draft your research paper. Here is what that will look like:

1) A Working Title

This will be a working draft of a title you think best fits your research project.

2) Research Question

As with most academic papers, essays, and articles, your research question will now become your thesis statement. This is the question you plan to address in your research paper.

3) A Statement of Significance

Here, you will address why your research matters. You can elaborate on how your research fills the gap in the existing literature and how it could provide opportunities for future study. Think about what it would mean if you were to successfully answer your research question. Revisit your **Initial Research Proposal** and look at the motivating factors you discussed based on your area of interest. This might be an effective way to see why that initial question was/is worth answering to you and may give you an idea as to what others may hope to gain from your work.

4) A Literature Review

This is where you will elaborate and explain where your work fits in within the broader conversation you have identified through your sources. You can draw from the introduction you drafted in your **Annotated Bibliography**, as long as you take into consideration the feedback you have received on that assignment.

5) A Description of Study

This is where you will describe your proposed primary research in detail. You are required to include five pieces of primary data in your Final Research Paper and this will allow you to consider how you will best be able to achieve these results. Consider the methodology that you plan on using and how you plan on putting that methodology into action. Address whether or not you will need informed consent forms or CITI training. Be sure to explain how you will acquire your research and/or data and how you plan on analyzing your results.

You will also be drafting a brief timeline of when, how, and where you plan on acquiring your research and/or data. This does not have to contain set dates (although it could not hurt to think ahead), but an overview of what your plan of action entails.

6) Appendices

In this section, you will include any forms used during your primary research (i.e. interview questions, artifacts, survey questions, informed consent forms, CITI Training Certificates, and so on).

◆ The Structure

This will be a more detailed assignment than the Initial Research Proposal. As you write the first draft of your research paper, you will want to start thinking about the structure and format thereof. MLA format is necessary for this assignment. Even though you are not required to follow the traditional five-paragraph structure, this assignment does need to look like an academic paper.

You will need to pay close attention to your proposed primary research in order to provide a clear picture of how this research will be implemented in the broader field of writing studies. Be sure to address all of the above-mentioned steps as you work on this draft.

There needs to be a specific level of detail here in order to guide you when you execute this primary research in the coming weeks. This first draft should place your research within the niche that you have established in your **Annotated Bibliography**. Discuss the conversation you have been immersing yourself in through your sources and describe how your research proposal will further that conversation. Just to reiterate, your Final Research Paper will be generating new knowledge in your chosen field and, as a result, it is important for you to provide context and to let your audience know what gap your work is filling.

◆ **Additional Advice**

The research niche you describe in this first draft of your paper will, ultimately, become the focus of your Final Research Paper. In essence, this is where you will be joining the conversation within your chosen discourse community. Keep in mind that you do not need to generate knowledge. You have a right to authorship as much as the sources that you reference, and what you contribute to the conversation could end up in *Stylus* and become a resource for scholars in the field of writing studies.