

Paper Proposal Instructions

Format: 12 pt font (Times New Roman), double spaced, 1 inch margins, proposals must be typed. Proposals must include a cover page that includes a title, the student's name, class number and section number, and date. Failure to include any of this material will result in an automatic 5% deduction on the submission. All papers must be stapled; failure to submit a stapled paper will result in a 5% deduction. All pages (except cover page) must include page numbers. Failure to include page numbers will result in a 5% deduction.

Each student is expected to submit a 2–3 page term paper proposal to be approved by the professor in advance of the term paper submission. The purpose of the proposal is to help the student formulate a question pertaining to the course material that they would like to investigate in greater detail within the confines of a term paper. The proposal also allows the professor to give the student critique and feedback as they begin researching and writing their term paper.

For the actual proposal it is expected that students will in two or three paragraphs (1–1½ pages) explain in some detail their proposed term paper topic and how they intend to address the subject within the confines of a 10–12 page term paper. The proposal should begin with a clear and succinct statement of the problem or issue to be addressed, and a brief outline of the text or texts relevant to the problem. This statement may not come easily and might require a good deal of thought; but the clearer you are able to state the issue, the easier it will be to determine the appropriate method for addressing the issue, and the more intelligible will be the relationship of the various parts of the paper one to another. The proposal should not merely be an assemblage of facts or statements. It must have an argument!

Following the actual proposal there needs to be an “Annotated Bibliography” section with at least two primary sources and four secondary sources. Give the full bibliographic citation for the source in **bold** and underneath in three to five meaningful sentences explain why the source is being used in the term paper. It is not enough to simply explain what the source is, you must explain why it is important for your paper.