

Topic Proposal

Due: 03/09 to Blackboard by end of day

Professionals and scholars write to superiors to propose projects. For this low-stakes assignment, you will write with the purpose of persuading your instructor that you have identified a viable research question this semester.

Your topic can be anything that interests you except these topics: gun control, legalizing marijuana, abortion, changing the legal drinking age. A successful research question will be:

- **clear:** it provides enough specifics that one's audience can easily understand its purpose without needing additional explanation.
- **focused:** it is narrow enough that it can be answered thoroughly in the space the writing task allows.
- **concise:** it is expressed in the fewest possible words.
- **complex:** it is not answerable with a simple "yes" or "no," but rather requires synthesis and analysis of ideas and sources prior to composition of an answer.
- **arguable:** its potential answers are open to debate rather than accepted facts.

You will be researching and writing on this topic for the remainder of the semester, so be sure to pick something that interests you!

Format:

For this proposal, you will write 1-2 MEAL paragraphs. You will begin by stating your proposed topic, your research question and its significance. Provide any background information necessary for understanding your question. You will then explain why this topic is of interest to you, and finally end with a request for approval.

Grading:

This is worth 10 points toward the informal writing category of your grade. **YOU CAN NOT START YOUR NEXT MAJOR WRITING ASSIGNMENT (Annotated Bib.) WITHOUT TOPIC APPROVAL FROM ME.**