

# REVISED RESEARCH PROPOSAL

Due: 2/29

Points: 100

## I. Why are we doing this?

In your initial research proposal, you composed your question without a deep awareness of its surrounding conversation in writing studies. Now that you've spent some time immersing yourself in that conversation, there's a good chance that your driving question will have to evolve in response to this new information.

This will give you a chance to frame your project in a more specific, actionable niche. This project also gives you an opportunity to explicitly outline your plan of attack for primary research, so you make sure that you have a solid methodology available to gather your data. Whether it's an interview, a textual analysis, a survey, a case study, or another format specific to your needs, you'll be able to mentally troubleshoot your project to avoid any unexpected pitfalls in terms of scope or feasibility.

The niche you describe in this proposal will become the focus of your final paper. Basically, this assignment is where you will transition from listening to speaking in your chosen writing studies conversation. Remember that there is no prerequisite for you to generate knowledge. You have as much right to authorship as any of the sources you read, and what you contribute could end up in *Stylus* and become a legitimate resource for scholars in the field of writing studies.

## II. What will you be doing?

You will be updating your original proposal in light of the new information you've gathered for your annotated bibliography. You will be adapting your original proposal into a format that addresses the following:

- 1. Project title** -- Whatever working title you think best fits your project's current goals.
- 2. Updated research question(s)** -- The question you now hope to address with your research plan.

**3. Statement of significance** -- Why does your research matter? Think both in terms of how it fills a gap in the existing literature and how it could provide opportunities for future study. If you are successfully able to answer your research question, what would it mean? Look back at your original proposal and see what factors motivated you to choose this subject area to begin with -- seeing why that initial question worth answering to you in the first place may give you a clue as to what others may hope to gain from your work.

**4. Review of literature** -- Where does your work fit in within the larger conversation you have found through your sources? This will look similar to the introduction you were required to draft to your annotated bib. If you received positive feedback on that project, you're absolutely allowed to just cut and paste that introduction here. Remember, this course is really just breaking down a single project (the research paper) into manageable parts -- if you have a solid foundation from a previous assignment, you can absolutely carry it over into future work.

**5. Research design/description of study** -- This is where you describe your proposed primary research in detail. You'll be required to include at least five pieces of primary data in your final research paper, so it's important

#### Using Sources to Explore Methodologies

Your annotated bibliography focused on what relevant background information you were able to discover through your research process. However, your secondary source research can help you beyond their data and conclusions. It can give you a hint about how to potentially conduct primary research of your own.

Look at what methods researchers have used to explore similar topics/questions. What method did they choose, how did they choose it? Is it a method you could scale down to use for your own research project? If you see a repeated methodology in your conversation (ie: surveys, case studies, etc.), it might be worth giving that tactic special consideration.

to consider how you'll best be able to achieve these results. What methodology will you use? How will you put that methodology into action? Will you need informed consent forms or CITI training? Make sure you note both how you will acquire your data/research and how you plan on analyzing your results.

**6. Timeline** -- In this section, you'll be breaking your proposed primary research method into smaller parts and giving yourself tentative deadlines for each task (ie: "I will request an interview with Professor Jumblejuice by March 1st. I will provide Professor Jumblejuice with an informed consent form by March 1st. I will conduct the interview by March 14th. I will transcribe the interview by March 21st." etc.). You can insert a calendar for this section, or you can just provide your plan in the form of a bulleted list. This is just meant to ensure you have a research process that will be manageable within the time constraints of our class.

Keep the deadline for your final research paper in mind as you compose your schedule. Ideally, you will want all of your data collected at least a month before that deadline.

## **7. Appendixes**

This is where you will attach any and all relevant forms (CITI training certificate, informed consent forms, etc.)

## **III. How will you know if it's good?**

Pay close attention to your proposed primary research (both in terms of your proposed design and your timeline). This should provide a clear picture of how your primary research will be implemented out in the world. Keep an eye out for gaps/missing steps.

Be careful of going too abstract. For instance, if your proposal ends in "analyze results," what does that process look like? What will you be looking for, how will you measure its significance? Going into this level of detail now will help you when you're executing this primary research in the coming weeks.

This proposal should also place your research firmly within the niche you established in your annotated bibliography. Summarize the conversation you've been observing through your sources, and describe how your proposed work will further that conversation. Your research paper will be generating new knowledge in the field -- make sure you provide that context and let us know what gap your work will be filling.