Research Essay Proposal
Student Conference and Annotated Bibliography for ENG 101

Research Essay Proposal: A proposal is a short typed paragraph which proposes a research topic and thesis. This helps focus the student’s vision and allows feedback from the instructor. For our research proposal you will need to complete a short descriptive paragraph explaining what subject you will research and why you chose the topic. Begin this paragraph with your proposed thesis. In addition, you must write at least five “research questions” you would like to answer through your research. An example: “Why does our government allow companies to patent seeds?” or “How have chickens changed biologically over the last 30 years?”

Student Conference and Prewriting:

Your conference date is: ______________

On your scheduled conference date you will meet with five to six fellow students and me privately at which time you will bring the following to be graded and evaluated with me: Annotated Bibliography, and prewriting activities, notes, journals, research questions, and any free writing pertaining to the research topic; A formal outline or organized plan which shows the organization and development of your research project; Any research questions or problems you need help with.

The Annotated Bibliography

Assignment: Find eight sources that address your issue with varying perspectives. They should also vary in terms of format: there should be a blend of journals, newspapers, websites and books. In alphabetical order, you will list the source in MLA format (just as an entry on a Works cited page), then follow it with a summary of the source (in four to six sentences), and finally an analysis of it, possibly explaining why it has been selected, and how the information will be used.

This assignment has the following requirement:

- At least 4 pages in length, typed, double-spaced, in proper MLA format, with heading and title.
- Eight sources that convey a variety of perspectives on your issue, in a variety of formats. Note that per the Research Essay prompt, a maximum of three sources may be Internet or Electronic. Archived database documents originally published in print format are not considered electronic, sources; however, non-print Internet sites, blogs, homepages, message boards, and online media are.

Please note that this assignment does not require an essay to be written. That is, there is no claim or body of support to be asserted. Rather, you are simply listing and summarizing sources, and giving brief explanations of why you find them to be useful. You are to be objective in your summary of them.

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Important details:

- Personal interviews may not be used as sources.
- You may not write in the first person for this assignment (no “I,” “me,” “my,” or “mine.”)
- You will be judged on the following criteria: the quality of your sources and the variety of formats. Use only excellent, reputable sources and try not to have more than three types of one format (newspapers, books, journals, websites).
- Popular websites like Wikipedia, answers.com, ask.com, etc. are **not** credible sources. Avoid them.

**This meeting and assignment is worth 50 points, and is due on _____________**

**Example entry on other side.**

**Example:**


The air commander who helped to turn the tide of General MacArthur’s Pacific War operations gives a popular and personal account of MacArthur. Only one chapter out of 13 is devoted to the occupation period. Outlined therein are the achievements of MacArthur’s administration of occupied Japan such as the liberation of Allied prisoners, the purge of Japanese war leaders, the release of Japanese political prisoners, the dissolution of the “thought control police,” land reform, the abolishment of Shinto as the state religion, educational reform, and the war crimes trials. The discussion tends to be superficial and laudatory. However, this source provides first-hand accounts of major historical events, and as such may provide a strong appeal to emotion in support of MacArthur’s policies and actions.