

Research Paper Proposal

Before beginning research, you should have a preliminary idea, or a “hunch,” of what you will be looking for and how you to plan to look for it. Of course, your proposal idea should transform through your research. Nevertheless, it is good to start with a direction in mind. We will start with this worksheet, which you should then write up into a one to two page proposal for me typed in standard form, explaining what you plan to research and how you will go about it. The research paper proposal is due in class on **Friday, February 29.**

Note: While they are **not** valid secondary sources, there’s no harm in looking at Wikipedia or Google searching to get a general overview of a topic of interest just for the sake of putting forward a preliminary thesis or hypothesis on the topic if you aren’t yet well-informed about it. You can then begin *really* researching your topic with valid, print sources (books, periodicals, and on-line databases) and more official web sources if these are applicable.

Answer the following questions:

1. What is your **general** topic in a few words?
2. What more **specific** aspect of your topic will be your focus?
3. What is your preliminary thesis or hypothesis, or what do you want to say about this narrowed topic? Or, what questions do you have about this topic?
4. Where will you begin looking for legitimate primary and secondary sources?
What is your research plan?
5. Why does this topic interest you? Why have you decided to pursue this topic?