

Project Proposal

Before you begin any research project it is important to organize your thoughts. You must make an assessment both of what you know and also what you don't know about your topic. Most importantly, you must have an idea of what you hope to learn over the course of your research about your topic. Thus, it is important to formulate questions that you hope to find answers to through your research.

To that end, compose a proposal for your research essay in which you complete the following three steps in the order they are listed:

1. Begin with at least one fully developed¹ paragraph that introduces your cultural topic and discusses why it interests you. Briefly describe your topic. Answer the following questions: what is your topic and why are you interested in it?
2. Following your description of your interests in your topic, write at least one fully developed paragraph about what you both do and don't know about your topic.
3. Finally, write a third part (again of at least one fully developed paragraph) of your proposal in which you discuss what questions are guiding your research and what you hope to learn from this project. Write at least **four** research questions within this paragraph and explain why you picked those particular questions.

Format requirements:

- Minimum length: three paragraphs and 400 words. Maximum length: eight paragraphs and 1500 words.
- Format: typed, double-spaced, with 1" margins, 12 pt. Times font, left justified.
- Include the following in the upper right hand side of the first page: your name; a preliminary title for your project; the number of words in your essay; the name, number, section and time of your class; and your professor's name.
- Number each page, centering the page number at the bottom of the page.
- Revise and proofread carefully.

You must upload an MS Word file containing a properly formatted draft of your essay to this assignment's folder in [turnitin.com](https://www.turnitin.com) to receive a grade. Your essay will be graded and commented on in [turnitin.com](https://www.turnitin.com).

¹ A fully developed paragraph is at least six sentences long. It opens with a topic sentence, contains a unified discussion of the topic, and ends with a closing sentence.