

**WRT 205
Spring 2016
Proposal**

Length: 5-7 pages
Points: 100
Draft Due Date: At Week 7 Conference
Final Due Date: Wednesday, March 9

Purpose:

So far this semester, you have started to think about your own subject positions and your investment in a particular disciplinary area. You have begun a scholarly inquiry into this general topic, and thought critically about what arguments sources were making, what evidence they used to support those arguments, how they made their arguments, what questions they created for you, and what openings they provided for you to enter the disciplinary conversation. Now, you will move to narrowing your topic and continuing the process of critical inquiry. This assignment addresses the following course objectives:

- 1) Researching and Evaluating Sources Rhetorically (Students will develop reading strategies for invention, rhetorical engagement with sources, and critical dialogue.)
- 2) Researching and Evaluating Sources Rhetorically (Students will develop reading strategies for invention, rhetorical engagement with sources, and critical dialogue.)
- 3) Research Writing as Social Practice (Students will analyze, reflect on, and respond to the social nature and consequences of research beyond the classroom.)

Audience:

You should consider as your audience the community of scholars in the discipline in which you are writing. Therefore, you must provide information, and use language and formatting, appropriate to the field in which you are conducting research.

Assignment:

For this assignment, you will propose research in your chosen area of interest. Your proposal will include the following seven headings:

Research Question(s): What is your main research question? (What intellectual gap is your work responding to?) This should be an original research question.

Epistemological Narrative: Why are you interested in your topic? What do you know about your topic and how did you come to “know” it? What was your moment of felt difficulty or cognitive dissonance? (I imagine that the heuristic you completed earlier in the semester will contribute greatly this section of the proposal.)

Background Information: You will cite **six** credible sources in this section. You may use the three sources you included in your Analysis & Synthesis paper. One of your sources must be a **TED Talk**. Think about how the sources are setting the scene for your performance as a researcher and presenter of your work. You should think of this section like a research report; you’re establishing what’s been done in your area of inquiry and what gap your inquiry will fill.

Methodology: You will use Creswell's article to discuss the methodology (philosophical worldview) that informs your work.

Methods: You will use Creswell's article to explain the methods you will use to carry out your research. (Remember to be realistic with the time and resources that you have this semester.)

Timeline: Your timeline will include the dates I have already listed on the syllabus (such as due dates related to your Multi-Form Research and Multimedia Presentation), but also the deadlines you set for yourself for completing various steps in the research process.

Working Bibliography: You will present a list of 8-10 credible, substantial scholarly sources that you will read, annotate, and likely include in your final research-related projects for the semester. You should include sources from different disciplines and from a broad historical timeline. Also, remember to maintain a balance in the types of sources you are using (books, journal articles, TED Talks, documentaries, web pages, podcasts, newspaper articles, etc.) Heads up: I will ask you to include these annotated sources in your portfolio.

Evaluation Criteria:

- *Appropriate and complete response to the assignment (Pay attention to the very specific requirements of this assignment.)
- *Evidence of thorough, critical research
- *Evidence of critical thinking
- *Awareness of the specified audience
- *Proper use of APA format for citations
- *Presentation of error-free texts (including spelling, grammar, and punctuation)