

Final Research Paper Proposal

Proposal Due: Friday, March 1 by 5pm (via Sakai): **25 points**

Paper Requirements: 300 words, MLA format

Submission format: Via Sakai in Word format (.doc/.docx) or as a PDF (.PDF). All papers should have student's last name in the file name (FitzsimmonsClassification.doc) or lose 10% of final grade. No late papers will be accepted.

Proposal Instructions: Students will write a brief prospectus of their upcoming paper, choosing one or more primary texts and a theme or concept that they will explore for their final paper. A good prospectus should include the following:

- Primary fictional text(s) to be researched and explored. If students choose a text not on the syllabus, they should also include a brief synopsis/summary of the plot. (2 points)
- A theme, area of inquiry, or question the student plans to work on and details of what inspired this particular area of inquiry
- Research questions the student hopes to answer
- A possible thesis/argument for their essay
- Methodology (Where will you locate information on this topic? What resources will you take advantage of?)
- A tentative schedule for completing the remaining elements of the project, including due dates for annotated bibliography, drafts and final paper deadline.

Points	Grade Criteria
25-20	Proposal suggests original, creative avenue of research, engaging in new/unique forms of inquiry, ideally arranged with student's own areas of interest Proposal lays out potential areas of inquiry, prompt or research questions, which will require the student to research in order to fully answer Student has possible thesis/argument, which may evolve over time Student presents clear plan for researching and completing paper, taking time constraints and requirements of final paper into account Proposal is well written, concise, clear, free from grammatical errors, MLA format
19-14	Proposal suggests area of research closely aligned with topics of discussion in class, without new/unique contribution from student Proposal lays out research questions or prompts, but appears to already have an answer, indicating issue has already been addressed in class or by other experts Student has possible thesis, but it is weak or needs improvement Student presents vague plan for completing research and paper Proposal is in MLA format but has grammatical errors, is overly long, in need of editing.
13-0	Proposal simply restates prompt or concept from class without advancing research questions or thesis statement Proposal topic is so closed, there are virtually no avenues of research available No thesis statement proposed No plan for completing research and paper Proposal is not in MLA format, has extensive errors, poorly written