

Dr. Stapleton W233 Research Proposal

If every college student created a research proposal before writing a paper like yours, she or he would do much better work. If you guide yourself and plan, you have a better chance of impressing your audience and saving yourself embarrassment.

We'll adapt Ballenger on the subject: "Research Proposal" (*Curious Researcher* 45). Devote at least a paragraph to each of these:

- ✚ Primary research question: what do you want to know about and why?
- ✚ What are some questions that interest you and might help you discover the answers to your research question?
- ✚ What theory or hypothesis about your topic are you testing? Remember that your job is to investigate a problem or issue in your field and report on the answers that professional types have proposed to solve or address it.
- ✚ What are your prior beliefs, assumptions or prejudices about your topic area? Has anything personal shaped your perspective? What were you thinking about your topic before you started researching it?



A separate section should contain a brief list of sources (8-10). Format each one according to the documentation style you'll be using, MLA or APA. For each entry, include two sentences of commentary that explains why you might use it in your research essay. This is also a good way to get a head-start on your annotated bibliography.

Due 25 May, 9 a.m., 2-3 pp.