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### First-Year Writing: Research Proposal Assignment Sheet and Worksheet

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## Research Proposal

### Assignment Overview

A proposal is a **persuasive** document pitching an idea (in this case, you are trying to convince me that you have a good idea for your research paper). In academia, people write proposals for research papers, conference presentations, articles, and books, allowing the audience (usually an editor or professor) to gauge the appropriateness of an idea and offer feedback. In the professional world, proposals allow a client or supervisor to evaluate a possible idea.

In this assignment, you will write a short proposal (1 or 2 full page **single-spaced**) for your research topic idea. Your proposal will include the sections detailed below to persuade me that this is a good area of research for your paper.

### Proposal Sections

**Overview** (This will be the longest section): In paragraph form (not bullet points), briefly describe your research topic, defining key terms and providing necessary context. Please cite at least two sources to show you are starting to engage with the conversation around your topic (and that there are sources available).

What disagreements are there on this topic? Why does this topic matter?

**Personal Connection:** What is the topic's link to your interests? Does it relate to your professional life, academic interests, future goals, personal experiences?

**Research Questions or Key Words:** List 3-4 well-developed possible research questions. You can also include keywords or phrases to be used when you search for peer-reviewed scholarly sources.

**Working Bibliography:** Create an MLA Bibliography with at least 3 (peer-reviewed, scholarly) sources.

**Topic Criteria. Your topics should:**

- Be grounded in our class theme and readings,
- Invoke your passion and resonate with your professional, academic, or personal life
- Be specific and “research-able”

**Details**

**Due Date:**

**Length:** 1-2 single-spaced pages, 11-12 pt font. This is an exercise in articulation and concision!

**Grading:** I’ll be looking for a clear description of a topic that meets the criteria above, thorough engagement with each required section, and strong prose. This is a formal academic proposal and should be treated as such. Please follow the format, proofread carefully, and expect to revise multiple times—this is likely a new genre that you’ve never written in before.

Name

Instructor Name

Course

Date

### Research Proposal Worksheet

**Overview** written in paragraph form should include the following information, (but not necessarily in this order). Remember that this is a persuasive document meant to be convincing that your research topic is important and worth you researching:

What is your research topic?

What are the key terms and their definitions/context?

Quote #1 **written with a signal or introductory phrase** =

Quote #2 **written with a signal or introductory phrase** =

What are the disagreements on this topic?

Why does this topic matter?

What are the consequences of this topic?

**Personal Connection:** (written in paragraph form)

How does this connect with your life (personal, professional, academic)? What made you choose this topic? Why do you feel this topic is important or interesting?

**Research Questions and/or Key Words: (bullet points ok)**

1.

2.

3.

**Working Bibliography: (MLA bibliography of at least 3 sources listed alphabetically with 1 sentence on what this source will add to your research. At least 1 must be a scholarly source found on a database (not our book))**

1.

2.

3.