

# THE RESEARCH PROPOSAL

Part of conducting college level research is having an idea of your topic before you even sit down to dig into the nitty-gritty of your research. For this reason, for paper #2, you must type and print out a research proposal that you will bring to the library with you. Failure to do so will result in a 10 deduction on your final paper.

The purpose of a research proposal is to select an area of interest and conduct some basic surface-level research before you begin digging deeper into the heavier academic sources that you'll be using for this paper. When we are in the library conducting research, I will be walking around and assisting you one-on-one with your research. As I do so, we will be looking at your proposal to get an idea of your topic so that we can help you locate potential sources.

## **Background Research**

In order to write this proposal, you will be using Google searches and perusing through popular online articles BEFORE you come to the library. This will help you learn background information about the topic you select.

## **Format**

For your research proposal, you are going to write one to two paragraphs that explains the following:

- What is the topic you're investigating (healthcare, climate change, education, immigration, criminal justice, etc)? Also, why is this topic important to you?\*
- What country (or countries) approach this topic differently than the United States and how do they do so? What is so unique about their system?
- How is another country's policy more practical or more progressive than what we currently do in the United States? Could we consider this policy as a solution to fix one of our social problems?\*

Next, you are going to create a "working thesis statement" and "working topic sentences," similar to what you did for your paper #1 outline. Therefore, below your one to two paragraph introduction, you will include a thesis and three topic sentences.

*\*Note: If you're just selecting a topic because you think it will be an easy topic to write about, then your paper will be weak. However, if you're selecting a topic that genuinely interests you, then your writing will shine!*

*\*\*Keep in mind that while you must understand the PROBLEMS with a certain social policy in the United States, your papers are going to be focused on providing SOLUTIONS rather than explaining our problems throughout the paper.*