**RESEARCH PROJECT: PROPOSAL**

As indicated on your Research Project assignment sheet, before you can conduct your research, you will need to submit a proposal and have it approved. Your first step is to pick your narrow research topic and the corresponding research question you intend to answer. You should already have three narrow topics and three corresponding research questions from which to choose: Pick your favorite topic and question or, if you can’t decide, confer with me; I can help you pick the pair that I think will yield the best research paper.

***What is a research proposal?***

A ***research proposal*** is your opportunity to present and justify the need for your research. For those who are conducting actual *original* research (i.e., carrying out a study), a research proposal is a somewhat complex document that provides the background of the issue, the existing literature on the issue, the research question being addressed by the proposed study, and the research design (i.e., the methods that will be used in carrying out the research). Because you are not conducting original research (but, instead, exploring research that has already been conducted), your proposal will take a slightly different (and much less complex!) form. For your research proposal, I would like you to write 2-3 paragraphs in which you address the following questions:

*What is your narrowed topic?*

*Why did you choose this topic?*

*What do you already know about this topic?*

*What do you want to know about this topic?*

*What is the research question you are posing relative to this topic?*

*Why is it important for you and others to know the answer to your research question?*

*What is your plan for learning the answer to this question?*

Your proposal should be in APA format (double-spaced, Times New Roman 12-point font, 1-inch margins). For now, I won’t require a cover page, running-head, and page numbers; however, remember that your final paper will need all of these things. Also, it is okay for your proposal to contain first person point-of-view; however, your final research project should be written exclusively in third person point-of-view.

***Your proposal will be due in class on***: ***. On this day you will present your proposal to me.*** If I approve it, I will sign it, and you will be ready to move on to the next phase of your research project. If I do not approve your proposal, we can discuss ways to modify your topic and/or question or revisit the other topics and questions that you originally brainstormed to determine a more appropriate topic and question. ***Although your proposal is due on , you will also need to hold on to it because it will serve as a required component of your final project (rubric to follow).***

**NOTE:** You will receive a deduction for each day that your proposal is late. I suggest that you keep up with all of your assignments so that you do not become overwhelmed by an ever-mounting stack of incomplete project components.

**Checklist:**

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| * My research proposal is 2-3 paragraphs.
 |  | * My research proposal is in 12-point Times New Roman font.
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| * My research proposal answers all of the questions above.
 |  | * Though my research proposal may contain first person point-of-view, it is otherwise written in formal/academic English.
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