

## Research Proposal Assignment

### Introduction

Contrary to popular belief, research is not about having a result in mind and then finding research that supports your presupposed ideas about a topic. No my friends, research is really about coming up with a question that you want to pursue and following it through in a way that makes sense. Thus, for this assignment, you will write out a research question, plot out an approach, and even do a little preliminary research to see what you actually want to **discover, not prove**. You will also narrow down a topic so that is manageable. Thus, you will not do your research on “becoming a lawyer”; you will narrow your topic to looking at something particular about becoming a lawyer—such as what does a lawyer actually need to study in law school to be ready to get a job after law school.

### Components

For this assignment you will write out the following:

- A research question. (A one sentence statement of what you want to look at in your research.)
- A two paragraph written introduction and justification for your project. (In this explain why you will be looking into your question, its significance, and what you hope to learn.)
- An annotated bibliography of two good sources. (This will involve three citations—MLA or APA format—and a short paragraph summarizing the source.)

### Audience

You are writing this, primarily, for yourself. However, you want to keep in mind that I and others will be reading this—so you cannot assume much prior knowledge on the subject from this.

### Evaluation Points

You will want to make sure that you do following as you do your Research Proposal:

- Write a good, coherent, and researchable research question.
- Create an introduction that justifies and explains the significance of your subject.
- Do two annotations of sources that you find.
- Ensure that your sources are reliable and solid.

### Due Dates

- **Final Draft: WEDNESDAY, 5-23-07**