

Research Paper Prospectus-
MWF (Due Friday, February 12th)
TR (Due Thursday, February 11th)

What is a prospectus?

A prospectus is a proposal to undertake a research project. A prospectus is a statement that briefly describes the questions, materials, and methods a researcher will use in his or her research. A prospectus indicates that the research project fits the required parameters.

What are the parts of the prospectus?

- A prospectus contains a clear, concise introduction to the topic of the research.
- A prospectus states the main research question(s) that the researcher wishes to answer.
- A prospectus summarizes the basic arguments that surround the research topic.
- A prospectus lists the basic research materials; these may be listed according to title and author, or they may include annotations.
- The prospectus usually does not include the researcher's thesis, except as the basis for the research questions. If the researcher believes a certain thing to be true, but has no substantive evidence to support that belief, then the researcher's belief drives the questions that must be answered in order to demonstrate the correctness of the belief.

Requirements

For the prospectus, I will be grading you on four primary criteria. First, I expect you to have a **clear two-paragraph introduction to your research topic**. In this introduction, you should summarize the present situation or topic that you are planning to address. This should be an intelligent, informed introduction, based on both course reading and use of your preliminary sources. Second, I want you to have a **primary research question that you are planning to address. This is NOT a thesis**, but rather a potential avenue of research that you are planning to mine. Third, I want you to have a **minimum of four scholarly sources that you are planning to use**. These sources must be either scholarly articles or books, either found at the University of North Georgia Gainesville Library or through our research databases. For the purposes of the prospectus, these sources *cannot be websites, scholarly or otherwise*. Finally, for each sources, I want to **use the four-sentence précis model to summarize the usefulness of the sources to your research topic and research question**.

The prospectus should be roughly **one to two pages, single-spaced**. The instructor to must approve your prospectus before continuing onto the research paper. If necessary, I will have you resubmit your prospectus until it is adequate for you to write your final paper.

Précis Format

Use the following four-sentence format for your research sources. This is the same format you will be using for your annotated précis.

- ✓ In a single coherent sentence give the following:
 - Name of the author, title of the work, date in parenthesis;
 - A rhetorically accurate verb (such as "assert," "argue," "deny," "refute," "prove," "disprove," "explain," etc.);
 - A **that** clause containing the major claim (thesis statement) of the work.
- ✓ In a single coherent sentence give an explanation of how the author develops and supports the major claim (**thesis statement**).
- ✓ In a single coherent sentence give a statement of the author's purpose, followed by an "in order" phrase.
- ✓ In a single coherent sentence give a description of the intended audience and/or the relationship the author establishes with the audience.

Research Paper Prospectus Rubric

Name _____

Topic _____

Clear, intelligent, informed two paragraph introduction to research topic	Clear, sophisticated research question (not a thesis)	Minimum of four scholarly sources (cannot be websites)	Utilization of the précis model for each source
/25	/25	/25	/25

Total Grade: /100