

RESEARCH PROSPECTUS

English 102 – Mr. Pouliot

The Research Prospectus is a formal statement of your plans for your research project. It should consist of the following elements:

1. Your research question. This does not need to be your final question at this point, but any revisions from this point on can be made only to the question, not the topic. The question should be open-ended so it does not have an obvious answer (*this question is not your thesis*). As you continue your research, you may find material that shifts the focus of your paper. Eventually, you will find the answer(s) to your research question and turn it into your thesis statement.

2. A few paragraphs about your progress so far. Here you may summarize why you chose your topic or what you already learned about it. You should discuss what problems or successes you have had so far with focusing your topic and finding reliable sources of information. In this section of your prospectus, you should focus on the following:

- How your perspective on the topic is expanding and evolving
- What alternative perspectives are becoming more important to your thinking
- What *key assumptions* you are now working with
- What concerns you have about finding sources and steps you plan to take to find them
- How you are evaluating the reliability of those sources

3. A working Works Cited list. Using the MLA format (See Chapter 6), you should provide a list of the sources you have located so far. Again, this is a list of the raw sources (those that you have been able to locate but not necessarily evaluate), and therefore may be subject to revision in the Works Cited page of your final draft.

NOTE: A *simplified sample* of the Research Prospectus can be found on pp. 91 - 92 of your text.

PRELIMINARY PROSPECTUS *

Due: Tuesday, April 25, 2006

FINAL RESEARCH PROSPECTUS

Due: Tuesday, May 2, 2006

*Indicates Peer Review (3 copies needed)