Guide: Research Proposal

Part 1: Introduction

For this part of the proposal, we followed the book guide lines for the Writer's Introduction (Chapter 11).

Key phrases that *can* be included

- In this paper, I argue that [thesis].

- I support my position with the following X arguments. First, ….. Second, ….. etc.

- I also consider alternative positions such as X, Y, Z. While these positions have merit, I show that ….

- My paper also includes X, Y, Z

- This paper is important because …/ This paper is of interest to X because it …

- I conclude my paper by

Notes

A. Be consistent in your terms (e.g., if "Internet Banking," and "Online Banking," are the same thing then keep to one of them).

B. Paragraphs typically feature three to five sentences.

C. Avoid abbreviations whenever possible unless they are abbreviations that everyone knows.

D. Use the TAB key to indent paragraphs; do not use the space bar!

E. To end a paragraph, hit the *enter* key.

F. Define new terms, but use an introductory clause. For example: *Smith (2017) defines X as "Blah Blah Blah,"* or *In this paper, I use the term X to mean blah blah blah (Smith, 2017).*

G. Use the feedback from your previous assignment.

Part 2: Discussion of Source Material

Review of High Quality Scholarly Articles

The main section of this part of the proposal presents the *scholarly* context of the topic. Specifically, the section should include a *full* review of **between six and eight <u>high quality</u> scholarly sources**, with each review containing four identifiable parts (see below). Although each review has four parts, it should be written as **one** paragraph and will contain **no less than seven** sentences. Use the questions below as a guide to writing the reviews.

Part 1 (One to Two Sentences)

1. What is special about the authors and/or the medium (e.g. the journal)?

Part 2 (Three to Four Sentences)

1. What is the topic/thesis/research question of the resource?

2. What is special about the contents of the resource?

Part 3 (Two to Three Sentences)

1. How will you use this information? Be specific.

Part 4 (Two to Three Sentences)

1. What are your views on this source? That is, did you like it? What did you like about it? Did you not like it? What didn't you like about it? How would you have liked it to be different?

Review of Other Sources

If you have used fewer than eight high quality sources, you need to add a further list **and** explanation of other resources you will be using. As such, in total, you will have eight overall sources. The additional sources can be books, chapters, YouTube videos, webpages, Wikipedia entries, or any other lower quality source. For each entry, you are required to

reference the source (in full), and then add an explanation as to what the resource is, and why the resource is necessary in your paper (minimum of five sentences each).

Part 3: Outline

This is a *working* outline for your research paper. As such, the outline you propose here will probably be different from your final paper. Despite the differences, the outline should guide you as you begin drafting your paper.

You are required to create your outline in *bullets* (examples provided below). The bullets (and subsequent indented bullets) represent the sections of the paper. The biggest problem most students have with the outline is whether to write supporting arguments first or counter arguments first. As most students are writing in support of some position, they feel that supporting arguments should go first; however, that is often *not* the best option. That is, if you're arguing *against* a common perception then it is often (but not always) better to first show what that perception is, and then show why that perception may be wrong. For example, if your thesis is "Smoking has health benefits" then most people, presumably, would not readily agree with you. As such, you would be advised to start by acknowledging all the reasons why people thought the opposite to be true. Only then, in the second half of the body of the paper, would you turn to the supporting arguments *for* your thesis.

Part 4: References

The reference section should contain a list of the sources that you plan to use for your paper. It should also include all the sources you used in the proposal. The references section needs to be in APA format.

Note:

a) The library's auto cite sources aren't necessarily right!

b) You will have references from your introduction AND from your annotation section.