

Student's Name

Prof's Name

ENGL 1102

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Topic Proposal for Research Paper

My research paper will explore the rising popularity of mid-life career changes, including an assessment of the complications and benefits involved. As a product of a culture that emphasized working hard at one job for decades and then retiring at sixty-five, I feel my topic would potentially be at least slightly controversial to previous generations. However, I would argue that people are living longer these days and that our culture is experiencing a shift from money-centric living to passion-centric living. I hope to argue that one can have both without feeling like a failure or an anomaly. I'm interested in this topic because I've experienced firsthand the desire for and success from new paths of interest and mid-career changes. This topic matters to me because, even if I never switch careers again, I like the idea of exploring interests without the pressure to explain myself or to see myself as too old to benefit from learning new things, whether that be classical piano performance or a degree in culinary arts.

I feel that my topic matters to a larger audience because of the sizeable population that learned to find a job and stick to it as a way of providing for a family and of proving that they can be successful in a capitalist, individualistic society. (maybe add here: what can I learn about this? What additional info might be important here?) So many people my age accept limitations based on an ideology that no longer suits their social and monetary needs and desires. (maybe add details here: clearly identify who would question this and why there would be debates about my topic) People deserve to have advocates who support their exploration of not only hobbies

(often seen as the forte of the young), but also of their options in the employment pool. I also see the importance of embracing identity as less of an inheritance and more of a choice. Playing by the rules of previous generations without opening our minds to the actual options we have can hinder happiness and interfere with good mental and physical health. In a culture that ages well, fifty really is relatively young, and I want to know more about opportunities for people like me.

I plan to incorporate _____ and _____ as sources, as well as _____ and _____. (offer descriptions and elaborations of these sources and why they matter to my topic). Some difficulties I might encounter in writing this paper include _____ and _____. I plan to use _____ to counter the issues of _____ and _____. I believe _____ about my topic, but as I read and learn about other perspectives, I plan to be flexible as I think through my own ideas and balance those ideas with what I discover.