

Topic Proposal

Selecting the right subject matter is important to every writer. To help you make your ideas clear and to strengthen your commitment to your topic, here is a proposal sheet that asks you to describe your ideas about your subject before you begin writing. Although as you write your ideas may change a little (they will almost certainly become more refined), thinking through your choice of topic now may help you to avoid several false starts. Answer the following questions, using complete sentences, and then use your responses to help you build your proposal.

1. What is the subject of your essay? Is it controversial? Debatable? Write a rough statement of your opinion about this subject.
2. Why are you interested in this topic? Is it important to your life somehow? State at least one reason for your choice of topic.
3. Is this a topic that will really interest other people? Why? What particular audience would you like to address?
4. At this point can you list at least two reasons that support your opinion of this topic?
5. Who opposes your opinion? Can you state clearly at least one of your opposition's major criticisms of your position?
6. What difficulties, if any, might arise during the writing of this paper? For example, might you need to collect any additional evidence to support your opinion?
7. What sources do you plan to incorporate into your essay? What are your strategies for and in what contexts would you consider expanding your research?
8. What do you expect to learn as you explore this topic?