

WRT 205 Proposal

Instructor: Dr. Jessica Corey
Length: 5-7 pages
Points: 200
Draft Due Date:
Final Due Date:

Purpose:

Thus far this semester, you have contemplated your own subject positions and your investment in a particular disciplinary area. You will now begin a scholarly inquiry into this general topic and think critically about what arguments sources are making, what evidence they use to support those arguments, how they make their arguments, what questions they create for you, and what openings they provide for you to enter the disciplinary conversation. This assignment addresses the following course objectives:

* Research Writing as Situated Process

Students will recognize and act upon the ways methods, processes, and contexts shape research and writing.

* Researching and Evaluating Sources Rhetorically

Students will develop reading strategies for invention, rhetorical engagement with sources, and critical dialogue.

* Reflecting on Ethical and Rhetorical Choices

Students will analyze and reflect on how rhetoric and issues of ethics (e.g., respect for and representation of research, engagement across differences of perspective, etc.) affect research across a range of situations within and beyond the classroom.

Audience:

You should consider your audience the community of scholars in the discipline in which you are writing. Therefore, you must provide information, and use language and formatting, appropriate to the field in which you are conducting research.

Assignment:

For this assignment, you will propose research in your chosen area of interest. I reiterate that you are choosing your topic, but it must align with the course theme, “Medicine and Society.” Your proposal will include the following **seven headings, written and organized as presented here:**

Research Question(s): What is your main research question? (What intellectual gap is your work responding to?) This should be an original research question.

This section should only contain one or two questions.

Epistemological Narrative: Why are you interested in your topic? What do you know about your topic and how did you come to “know” it? What was your moment of felt difficulty or cognitive dissonance? What is your stake in the work? (I imagine that the heuristic you complete might contribute greatly to this section of the proposal.)

This section should be anywhere from a substantial paragraph to more than a page.

Background Information: You will read and cite **six** credible sources in this section. You should have a **mixture of scholarly journal articles, books, and popular sources** (e.g. websites, TED Talks, podcasts, newspaper or magazine articles) **but more scholarly journal articles and books** than popular

sources. Think about and discuss how the sources are setting the scene for your performance as a researcher and presenter of your work. You should establish what's been done in your area of inquiry and what gap your inquiry will fill. You should, therefore, be synthesizing these sources on a critical level, not just summarizing the information contained within them. You should also have a discussion about how these sources are making their arguments rhetorically (considering and composing according to purpose, audience, and context). In other words, you want to avoid "chunking" or "patchwork" citations.

Please have a formal **"References" or "Works Cited"** list at the end of your write-up in this section. This section should be 2-3 pages.

Methodology: You will use Williamson & Huot's article (p. 39 of text, 43 of course packet) to discuss the methodology (philosophical worldview) that informs your work. This section should be 2-3 sentences.

Methods: Communicate what you will actually do to investigate your question. Williamson & Huot's article (p. 39 of text, 43 of course packet) may help you explain the methods you will use to carry out your research. (Remember to be realistic with the time and resources that you have this semester.) You need to **be specific**. For example, if you tell me that you're conducting a survey, I should see a list of your survey questions. If you tell me you're doing a rhetorical analysis, I should see a table that communicates what you're going to be documenting. The length of this section will vary by project.

Timeline: Your timeline will include the dates I have already listed on the syllabus (such as due dates related to your Data Representation project), but also the deadlines you set for yourself for completing various steps in the research process. Keep in mind that being either too rigid or too relaxed with your schedule will likely create problems for you. The length of this section will vary by individual preference for detail.

Working Bibliography: You will present a list of 5-7 credible, substantial sources that you will read, annotate, and likely include in your final research-related projects for the semester but that you **have not read yet**. You should include sources from different disciplines and from a broad historical timeline. Also, remember to maintain a balance in the types of sources you are using (books, journal articles, TED Talks, documentaries, web pages, podcasts, newspaper articles, etc.) This list is different from the "References" or "Works Cited" list at the end of your Background Information. Heads up: I will ask you to include these annotated sources in your Results and Analysis assignment.

Evaluation Criteria:

- *Appropriate and complete response to the assignment (Pay attention to the very specific requirements of this assignment.)
- *Evidence of thorough, critical research
- *Evidence of critical thinking
- *Awareness of the specified audience
- *Proper use of citation format appropriate for the discipline in which you're working
- *Presentation of error-free texts (including spelling, grammar, and punctuation)