CollegeBoard

AP Seminar™

NEW COURSE OFFERING 2017 SCHOOL YEAR FOR 10-12 GRADES

PICK YOUR QUEST.
PROVOKE CHANGE.

What is a research proposal?

A research proposal is a concise and coherent summary of your proposed research. It sets out the central issues or QUESTIONS that you intend to address. It outlines the general area of study within which your research falls, referring to current state of knowledge and any recent debates on the topic. It also demonstrates the originality of thinking and general passion you have for the project.

Research Proposal General Outline:

TOPIC: What PROBLEM would you like to examine and why is it important?

INTRODUCE EVIDENCE: Explain the effects of the problem issue that you would like to investigate and propose solutions.

EVIDENCE: Use preliminary evidence to make the case for the importance/ relevance of your project.

ANALYSIS: Explain what the evidence reveals about the relevance of your TOPIC and the problems your research will address.

COMMENTARY: What questions do you feel will be at the center of your research? What answers do you expect to find? Why would this be a topic of interest for team members?

Student Sample

Some university instructors complain that incoming college freshmen are inadequately prepared for the demands of college-level research tasks. This is probably due to a failure of communication between high school and college instructors and administrators. This research project **will examine** the existing literature concerning the research habits of high school and college students and **will also present** original data collected from the examination of hour first-year college English courses and four senior-year high school English courses. This research and its conclusions **will seek to** adequately prepare their students for the rigors of college courses. By isolating the skills in which students most need improvement, this project **will assist** high-school instructors and administrators to plan and teach more effective English courses.

Print Out Preliminary Sources

- Find **three articles** from major newspapers listed below that provide your team with preliminary information to make a decision on why your research is interesting and relevant.