

## ENGLISH 1301 - Essay # 3 Information (Prompt)

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### ***Topic: PROPOSAL ESSAY with RESEARCH***

A proposal calls for action in response to a problem.

In this essay, you will, in essence, write a proposal to an organization (your audience) in which you propose that they do something differently, or do something new.

A research essay encourages the writer to perform in-depth analysis, develop a thesis and supporting points, and synthesize external sources in support of the thesis.

*[NOTE: The following topics are off-limits: Abortion, Gun Control, Capital Punishment, Drug Legalization of any kind, Obesity, and Gay Marriage. Students write about those topic in high school; please choose a more creative and challenging topic for Essay # 3]*

### **Write a proposal with research essay in which you:**

- Advocate a change that could solve a major problem in a significant institution in the United States.
- This institution can be a government agency (IRS, Medicare, the Food and Drug Administration, etc), a corporation (IBM, USAA, etc), a school district, a city department, a national restaurant chain, a hospital system, or other company/agency.
- **You must identify the agency by NAME!** Therefore, do some research to see what profit, or non-profit, agencies/companies could help resolve the problem you are trying to address. Don't attempt to start a "new" agency. Just give a current agency a NEW, or EXPANDED, task to perform to help solve the problem.
- After you decide what the change should be (the change is your "thesis"), research how that entity currently operates and then research how your proposed change could positively affect that entity and its constituents (i.e. the American people, Frost Bank employees, etc.)

Remember: Essays must have a thesis (an argument) to be effective. In this essay, your thesis will probably include the word "should."

Example thesis: Corporation A should do B for the benefit of C.

### ***Thesis examples (Do not use these examples - come up with your own!):***

- **Thesis Example:** Due to increasing concerns over the safety of food imported from non U.S. countries, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) should increase the frequency of the random testing of foods imported from countries that have had repeated reports of imported food toxicity.

- **Thesis Example:** The U.S. Congress should institute a flat tax in an effort to decrease the financial burdens on certain groups of taxpayers.
- **Thesis Example:** The Tomball Independent School District should require all of their junior and senior level students to participate in dual credit programs. As a result of this initiative, more students will graduate high school with some college credit and these students may be more likely to go on to complete their college degrees.
- **Thesis Example:** The Houston Food Bank should work with local restaurants to distribute their unsold food to the local community, therefore, helping reduce child hunger in the Houston area.
- **Thesis Example:** The Woodlands Township Board should..... (you get the idea)

## ESSAY FORMAT

**For this research essay, your paragraphs should follow the structure below:**

- **First paragraph:** Introduction including a "hook" to grab the reader's attention, a brief discussion of the topic, a strong thesis, and an advanced organizer (road map) (1 paragraph)
- **Body paragraphs: NOTE: Use the following subtitle for this section of the essay: "*Problem*" - background of agency/company, context for the issue, important terminology, and research (1-2 paragraphs)**
- **Body paragraphs: NOTE: Use the following subtitle for this section of the essay: "*Solution*" - discuss the specific process for implementing your proposal. What needs to happen? Who will do the work involved? (2-3 paragraphs)**
- **Body paragraphs: NOTE: Use the following subtitle for this section of the essay: "*Benefits*" - Discuss specific benefits for your proposed change. Who will be positively impacted by the change? How will these individuals receive the benefits of the change? (1-2 paragraphs)**
- **Last paragraph:** Conclusion summing up your arguments in the essay in fresh words and a final thought to leave the reader with a strong impression (1 paragraph)

**The essay length is FOUR FULL PAGES - AT LEAST 1,200 Words - typed, double spaced.**

- Paragraphs must be at least 6 sentences each
- Underline your thesis (must be in paragraph 1)
- Three sections of the essay must be subtitled as described above (see Essay Format above).
- Students who plagiarize a phrase, a sentence, or an idea will receive a ZERO on this assignment! No exceptions.
- Cite your sources correctly and every time you use them to avoid plagiarism!

**This essay requires scholarly research cited in MLA Style.\***

- Students will create a separate **Works Cited** page (last page of the essay) in which they cite their sources in MLA style.
- Students will also cite sources correctly in the body of the essay (in-text citations).
- Be careful not to "over-cite" your sources. *Seventy-five percent of your essay should be your own words and ideas.* Only 25% (at the most) should be information cited from your sources.
- Do not use block quotes, which are four lines or longer. Cite three lines, or less, at a time. Use the ellipsis. . . to let the reader know that some material has been omitted.

**For example:** Obama suggests, "Community college would greatly benefit our American citizens. . ." (232).

- **FOUR documented sources are required.** Do not cite more than **FIVE** total sources in Essay 3.

**3** sources must be academic / library sources such as an academic journal or a book (these could be available electronically)

- Examples of academic journals: (There are thousands of academic sources available through our library! These are just a sampling!)
  - Harvard Medical Journal
  - Scientific America
  - Adolescent Psychiatry
  - Journal of Communication
  - Journal of Mass Media Ethics
  - Management Quarterly
  - Ecology Journal of America

- **1** source of your choice (magazine, newspaper, online news site, etc.) (not Wikipedia or an encyclopedia website of any kind!)

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**DUE DATE:**

- **Essay # 3 Final Version Due. // DUE: Monday, April 17 by 11:59 p.m. (100 pts total)**
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**POINT DISTRIBUTION**

- **5% - Following required format**
- **5% - Works Cited page in MLA Style**
- **20% - Citing Sources Correctly in the body of the essay (In-Text Citation)**
- **40% - Content (clear thesis, good supporting evidence, and sufficient detail)**
- **5% - Organization (paragraphs are unified and coherent with sufficient transitions and emphasis)**
- **5% - Language/Word Choice/Style (sentences are correct and varied, diction is clear and concise, and tone and voice is appropriate)**
- **20% - Grammar and mechanics (standard English usage, excellent proofreading, few punctuation or grammar errors)**

**100 POINTS TOTAL**

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