

Project 2: The Proposal to Address an Issue in Writing Center Theory and Practice (2,000 words for 30 points total)

Purpose: Conduct inquiry-based research on an issue in writing center theory and practice and propose strategies for addressing this issue in your consulting

Audience: Your instructor and your peers. The world?

The Assignment

At this point in our semester, we have read and discussed a large number of issues in writing center theory and practice. For this assignment, use these readings and discussions as springboards into further research on one particular issue that sparks your interest. Conduct research on this issue using the course resources listed at the top of our Canvas site and any other sources you can find. The goal of your research is to learn more about your issue and discover strategies of addressing this issue through writing consulting.

For example, you might be interested in ways of helping students in fields not generally associated with writing instruction receive more effective one-on-one writing instruction. A great place to begin your research is our *Bedford* guide chapter 5, where you can pick up some key words to search for as you start your research process in, for example, *Writing Center Journal* (WCJ). In WCJ, you could search for articles by writing center scholars and tutors who discuss strategies they have used to help students from STEM fields improve their writing. You might even sub-divide your research into areas of intersectionality. So for example, you could also research strategies for helping STEM students improve their writing if they are first-generation college students who are second language learners.

Regardless of your topic, you will conduct research and find out as much as you can on the following:

- Causes of the issue and other contributing factors
- Background information, such as past strategies for addressing the issue
- People/institutions involved in the situation: students, tutors, administrators
- Current possible solutions to the issue
- Your recommendation(s) and why you think this will work when you are tutoring

Assignment Goals

The goals of this assignment are as follows:

1. Demonstrate your ability to conduct inquiry-based research on an issue in writing center theory and practice and propose one or two plausible solutions to that dilemma you might use in your tutoring
2. Demonstrate your ability to select and analyze credible sources of information
3. Demonstrate your ability to integrate research findings with course material
4. Demonstrate your ability to follow a research-based writing process to compose a proposal that follows MLA, APA, or CMS standards.

The Content

Project 2: The Proposal

For this proposal, you will investigate an issue in writing center theory and practice, and you will investigate possible solutions to this dilemma. When composing your proposal, you should first fully explain the dilemma and then propose and explain solutions to that problem. Your research will be inquiry-driven, so you will have research questions on the problem you are investigating. These research questions will help you form your hypothesis about your problem, and *then* you will form a thesis to propose your solutions. You may read more about proposals in the [Purdue OWL resource on proposals](#).

Here are some ideas you can use to further prompt inquiry questions into your issue:

- What is the issue and its causes?
- Define the issue
- Describe how this issue most often occurs from beginning to end
- Who is affected by this issue? (decision makers and stakeholders)
- How big of a issue is it?
- What contributes to the issue?
- Where/when does the issue occur?
- How has the issue changed over time?
- What has changed recently to make this an issue?
- Who has tried to address the issue in the past?
- What were the solutions?
- What were the costs and who paid?
- How well have past solutions worked?

The Format

This proposal should adhere to MLA, APA, or CMS guidelines and must be around 2,000 words.

You should use at least *ten* sources broken down into the following categories:

- *Optional: the interview with an expert in the field:* set up this interview as soon as possible.
- *Five scholarly sources:* Scholarly sources include peer-reviewed journals (*Computers and Composition, Technical Communication Quarterly*). These should be no more than seven years old unless you are using the source to discuss the background of the issue.
- *Four online source:* Online sources include *credible* education websites or reports. These should be no more than five years old unless you are using the source to discuss the background of the issue.
- *One book:* Books include print publications from the Pius library that are authored by experts, edited collections, or ILLED texts from other libraries. These should be no more than ten years old unless you are using the source to discuss the background of the issue. If you can't find a book on your topic, you may switch this out for a scholarly article.

Revision

From Projects 1 and 2, you may choose **one** document to revise. Your revision will be due with your Tutoring Philosophy on our final exam day. You may not use the revision due date as an extension for this assignment. I will average the grades from your original and your revised documents for your final assignment grade.