

Prospectus for Research Paper

Due: Wed. 10/24

200-300 Words

An argumentative research paper presents one side of an arguable opinion about an issue. The goal of the paper is to convince the audience that your opinion is valid and defensible. Ideas that you are considering need to be carefully examined in choosing a topic, developing your argument, and organizing your paper. It is very important to ensure that you are addressing all sides of the issue and presenting it in a manner that is easy for your audience to understand. Your job is to take one side of the argument and persuade your audience that you have well-founded knowledge of the topic being presented. It is important to support your argument with evidence to ensure the validity of your claims, as well as to refute the counterclaims to show that you are well informed about both sides.

To take a side on a subject, you should first establish that the topic you have chosen is arguable. Ask yourself the following questions to ensure that you will be able to present a strong argument:

- Is it a real issue, with genuine controversy and uncertainty?
- Can you identify at least two distinctive positions?
- Can you find reliable data to support your position?
- Is the scope of the issue narrow enough to be manageable?

Your topic must be related to narrative medicine.

The prospectus should state your proposed topic, your research question and its significance (both to you, personally, and to the narrative medicine as a whole). Provide any necessary background information or define any unusual terms or concepts. It is okay for this to be “rough” at this point. What I mean by this is that I am assuming you haven’t done much, if any, research on your topic yet, so the information presented here can be fairly limited in its scope. You should pick something that you are curious about.

Your prospectus will close with a request for my approval of your proposed topic. At this point you may want to reiterate its main “selling points.”