

## Sample of Research Paper Topic Proposals for a Position Paper

### Topic Proposal Outline

1. Identify your research topic that is an arguable issue which cannot be solved simply.
2. Tell me what interests you about this issue [i.e. why you want to research it].
3. State your research question.
4. Formulate a working thesis. [see CRW p.637]
  - a. Thesis should state your issue + your opinion + reasons for your opinion.
5. Identify at least 5 opposing viewpoints of your issue, but also focus who your target-audience is.
6. How are you going to get your readers to take your position seriously? How are you going to conduct your research and where are you going to find your information?
7. Identify your purpose.
  
8. Make sure you number your topics in order from your most favorite to your least favorite.

### Sample #1 Poor T.P.

John Smith

#### Topics for a Position Essay

1. Drugs and its relation to poverty
2. Schools should take responsibility for people's poor money management in later life.
3. The outcome of a person without a strong family bond
4. A parents influence on a kids maturity level as he or she grows up

## Sample #2 Better, but still poor T.P.

John Smith  
English 100  
Homework  
Nov. 14, 2005

### Topics for position

1. Racism – why does racism exist in the world
2. Interracial relationships – between blacks and whites
3. Obesity – why are people fat
4. Plastic Surgery – why do some people want to be perfect
5. Bipolar – why are some people bipolar (who can it affect)

## Sample #3 Best T.P.

John Smith  
Professor Huellemeier  
8:00 E100  
3/15/06  
Research Paper Topic Proposal

### Position Research Paper Topic Proposal

- 1. Topic #1** -- Schools should take responsibility for people's poor money management in later life.
  - Why I want to research this topic?  
I have a personal interest in this topic because I have read many financial advisement books such as, Think & Grow Rich and Rich Dad Poor Dad, and I'd like to use this assignment to educate myself further on the issue. I also happen to be one of those people who don't know how to manage my money now that I'm older and think that I would've benefited from classes in high school.
  - Research Question?  
Does the American public school system have the moral and ethical responsibility to teach students how to manage their money later in life?
  - Working thesis.  
In my opinion, schools have the moral and ethical responsibility to teach financial literacy in order to prepare students to become responsible members of society. Financial literacy is crucial to student development due to: students' unawareness of how to establish good credit and the consequences of a poor credit score, many students begin to accumulate excessive credit while

they're still in high school, it can teach students how to invest and plan for their retirement, and it can offset pressures of overwhelming debt and increasing numbers of bankruptcies filed yearly.

- 5 Opposing Viewpoints on plastic surgery.
  1. People who believe the school system should be responsible. This is a social problem.
  2. People who believe the school system should not be responsible. This is a private issue.
  3. The public school system.
  4. Current high school students
  5. Parents of high school students.
  
- Identify audience.

My target audience will be people who are between the ages of 25-35, know nothing about financial literacy, have had financial difficulties, and who DO NOT think that the public school systems have a moral responsibility to teach financial literacy because this is a personal issue, not a social one.
  
- How am I going to get readers to take my position seriously?
  - I plan on relying on my own previous knowledge of finance by reading the books Think & Grow Rich and Rich Dad Poor Dad
  - By conducting research using:
    - Databases on Ebscohost: Academic Search Premier,
    - Reference book: Encyclopaedia of Education
    - Journals: Diverse Issues in Higher Education, Black Collegian, Human Ecology, Journal of Consumer Affairs,
    - Periodicals: US News & World Report, Business Week, USA Today, Kiplinger's Personal Finance
    - Ask the reference librarian in DCCC's library
    - Conducting personal interviews.
  
- Purpose.

To educate my specific audience about my viewpoint that financial literacy is crucial to student development, and that our public school systems should be held responsible.