Research Project

The research project consists of a research proposal, annotated bibliography, and recommendation report.

Part 1

Research Proposal (Due: March 27, 11:59 pm)

Compose a 250-word research proposal. In your proposal, offer a rationale for researching a problem or need relevant to the fire science field.

Define or describe the problem or need. Stasis theory can help you define it using a four-question process: Stasis theory (Purdue OWL). In addition, explain why it is important to research solutions to the problem or need for your recommendation report. Answer the “so what?” question.

In your research proposal, explain how you will use the method of analysis, observation, survey, or interview to collect primary research on your topic. Please review the Purdue Online Writing Lab's resource on conducting primary research.

SurveyMonkey has a free basic plan that you can use to generate online surveys.

Further, explain how you will locate primary sources (e.g. reports, newspaper articles written from a first-hand account of an event) and secondary sources (e.g., review articles), which provide background information on the problem or need and/or offer multiple perspectives on how to address it. The following handout differentiates between primary sources and secondary sources: Primary & Secondary Sources. (Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Mary and Jeff Bell Library).

For the assignment, compose your research proposal in the form of a memorandum. Please analyze the format and organization of the sample internal proposal formatted as a memorandum on pp. 309-315 in Practical Strategies for Technical Communication.

APA-style

Use APA style (6th edition) to create your reference list.

Resource: The Purdue OWL APA formatting and style guide: General format

Assignment Submission
Submit your research proposal to the Dropbox under the "Assessments" tab.
Annotated Bibliography (Due: April 6, 11:59 pm)

Compose an annotated bibliography for the problem or need that you proposed to research.

Create bibliographic citations and annotations for 4-5 sources (a minimum of 3 academic sources).

Each annotation should be approximately 150-200 words, following the organization outlined below:

1. Summarize the main idea/argument of the source.
2. Evaluate the source. Use applicable questions listed in The Purdue OWL handout Evaluation during reading to evaluate the accuracy, timeliness, and credibility of the source.
3. Evaluate the usefulness of the source for your research project.
   a. For example, the source may include historical background information about the problem or need that you are researching.

Academic sources include but are not limited to books and journal articles written for academic audiences (such as students and professors in an academic field).

Academic sources are written for specialized audiences not general audiences. In contrast, popular sources such as newspapers and magazines are often written for general audiences.

Use research databases, including Academic Search Complete, to search for journal articles for your research topic using the library guide for online classes, accessible in the Table of Contents of our D2L course.

Some research databases allow users to search for peer reviewed journal articles. Peer reviewed journal articles are published by academic journals that use a selective peer review process.

APA-style
Use APA-style (6th edition) to format your annotated bibliography.

Resource for Annotated Bibliography assignment:
Creating annotated bibliographies based on APA-style (Keillor).

Assignment Submission
Submit your annotated bibliography to the Dropbox under the "Assessments" tab.
Part 2

**Recommendation Report (Due: May 4, 11:59 pm)**

In your recommendation report, offer one or more researched recommendations to address the problem or need. Integrate 4-5 academic sources (e.g. peer-reviewed journal articles) into your recommendation report. Use as many sources from your annotated bibliography as possible.

In chapter 13, Mike Markel outlines the organization of a recommendation report.

**Point-of-View**
Primarily use third-person point of view to write your recommendation report. Limit use of first-person point of view. Do not use second-person point of view (you, your) since it is inappropriate for the rhetorical situation of the assignment.

**APA-style**
Use APA-style (6th edition) to format your citations.

**Assignment Submission**
Submit your recommendation report to the Dropbox under the "Assessments" tab.
References


