

(1) author

Insert your name here.

(2) working title

*You should be developing a working title that accurately describes your project, but that also captures the interest of your audience; if you are struggling with a title, see Booth, Colomb, and Williams' The Craft of Research, pp. 219-221.**

(3) research questions

Here you should list the main questions that you hope to address with your paper. You can begin with the questions that you developed in your initial GEN 410 proposal, but try to refine and order them (perhaps moving from most general to most specific, or vice-versa), so that an outline of your paper begins to emerge from a careful reading of your question list. See also Booth, Colomb, and Williams chapter 3 for suggestions on developing and refining research questions.

(4) thesis

A thesis is typically a single sentence that expresses the main point or central claim of a research paper; so, if you already have a preliminary answer to your primary research question, include it here. See also Booth, Colomb, and Williams, p. 194 ("Points, Claims, etc.").

(5) outline

Before you begin drafting your paper, you should prepare a point-based outline (however sketchy at this stage) so that you can better assess the strengths and weaknesses of your research plan. Your outline will also help you to determine the kinds of sources that you will need to gather over the next few weeks, and it should give you clues about the major section and subsection headings that you can use to break up your paper into readable chunks. See Booth, Colomb, and Williams pp. 187-188 for a helpful discussion of point- and topic-based outlines; in addition, remember that your outline will almost certainly change as your project unfolds, so think about updating it as needed (perhaps weekly or biweekly until your final draft is complete).

(6) bibliography

Finally, your prospectus should show the growing list of books, articles, and other materials that you are planning to use as sources for your project, presented in a consistent MLA or APA format and divided into the following sections:

- *sources already read (including books, articles, online resources, etc.);*
- *sources not yet read;*
- *sources identified, but not yet acquired.*

Note that Booth, Colomb, and Williams chapters 5, 6, and the Appendix may be helpful here; in addition, Hacker's A Pocket Style Manual includes detailed instructions for citing sources in both the MLA and APA systems.

* All page numbers here refer to the Second Edition of The Craft of Research; if you are using the First Edition, simply use the Index (pp. 289-294) to help you locate the relevant information.