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What is a Prospectus?

A prospectus is essentially a research proposal, a document providing an audience with relevant material regarding a proposed researched argument. It is usually the first step in a major research project; people use prospecti to convince committees, managers, professors, and so on that they have a clear and logical plan of action for their projects.

A prospectus should include two main components: the prose section; and an annotated list of your research surrounding your issue to that point.

- The prose section consists of three elements: an overview, a rationale, and an agenda
 - o The overview is a brief summary of key points of the subject matter.
 - The rationale should explain to your audience why you chose to research a particular issue. You should indicate the rhetorical situation (audience, purpose, and so on). The rationale also shows why the topic is important and significant in regard to its context.
 - consider your audience as consisting of all ENG 102 instructors and students in this semester.
 - o The agenda is an illustration of your plan for proving your argument. It will include
 - your position, in the form of a draft thesis statement,
 - a sense of what sources you will call upon,
 - the probable lines of argument in support of your claim
 - a conception of the counterargument, that is
 - your understanding of your opposition
 - its likely objections
 - your plan to respond to those objections.
- The annotated list of the research you have conducted will show your audience what others have said or not said about the topic. That list will include the bibliographic information for the researched materials with annotations for each work, helping you to explain how your opinion is adding to the existing conversation surrounding the topic. The annotations should include the following elements:
 - o the authors' key claims and supporting points;
 - o your rhetorical intent in using the work.

The Assignment

You will use *The Engaged Reader* as your starting point, by selecting one of the following articles (and, hence, its central issue) from the *Reader*:

- "The Culture of Shut Up," Jon Lovett, page 13
- "Marketization of Education: An Ethical Dilemma," Samuel M. Natale and Caroline Doran, page 71
- "A Question of Honor," William M. Chace, page 89
- "The Shame of College Sports," Taylor Branch, page 103
- "(Rethinking) Gender," Debra Rosenberg, page 203
- "Standing Up for the Rights of New Fathers," Tara Siegel Bernard, page 211

Once you have settled upon the article and, hence, issue for the assignment, you will then conduct scholarly research to obtain further materials for the assignment. You will eschew sources found through Google and other Internet search engines, in favor of academically-oriented sources, obtained through the research databases available via Ohiolink at CSU's library website (such as *Academic Search Complete* and *Lexis-Nexis*) and through Scholar and the Ohiolink Central Catalog.

You will then write the prospectus as described above. This is a snapshot of the research you have conducted to this point. Good researchers always review many more sources than they actually use. Therefore, your list will contain at least **ten** sources, at least **one** of which is from *The Engaged Reader* (your starting point article), and at least **three** of which must be scholarly in nature (i.e. published in scholarly journals); other articles may be journalistic, if they have come from high-quality sources. Begin with your rationale and agenda and conclude with your list of sources, under the heading, "Annotated Works Consulted."

Your prospectus should contain the following elements:

- A brief overview of the matter at hand
- A clear rationale that addresses the context of the topic
- A specific, narrowed thesis statement (in essence, an "I plan to argue that. . .")
- A clear agenda indicating your intent and probable lines of argument
- Works cited that not only address the writer's position but also opposing viewpoints
- Effective annotations
- Few mechanical or grammatical errors
- Predominant use of the present tense and 3rd person.

Essay Submission Guidelines

The draft you will submit in hard copy at conference for my feedback. The revision you will submit as an attachment to the correct Blackboard assignment page. Do not cut and paste your document into the submission box. If you do, I will send it right back to you, unread. You must submit as a file attachment. If you are a user of Microsoft Word, Pages, or Open Office Write, I will have no trouble opening your attachment. If, though, you are a user of Microsoft Works, you must save a copy of your work and send it in Rich Text Format (with the file extension "rtf"), or I will be unable to open your attachment successfully. If you are a user of Google Docs, you should download the file as a .docx or PDF and submit it in that format.

Your rationale with agenda should be between 500 and 750 words. Each annotation should be approximately 50-75 words in length. Please follow MLA and Brentar essay format guidelines:

- You must use US Letter as the paper size.
- Make your margins one inch on all sides
- In the upper left-hand corner of the first page only, place these four pieces of information, in this order: your name, my name (Instructor Brentar), ENG 101, and the date
- In a header on the upper right-hand corner of every page, one-half inch from the top edge and flush to the right margin, in the same font as the rest of the essay, place your last name and the page number, without the word "page" or the abbreviation "p." Do not introduce any vertical lines, horizontal lines, or shaded text boxes to the header.
- Double-space the entire document. Do not introduce any extra spacing after hard returns.
- Use Courier New 12 pt. font.
- For the revision, use this file naming formula: Yourlastname Argument Prospectus Revision.

Due Dates

Draft due: In conference (7/25, 7/26). Revision due: 7/31, by 11:59 p.m.



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