

Name:

Topic:

Score:

Oceanography Research Proposal Paper

A. Introduction: This assignment requires you to write a short research proposal (about 1 page -1.5 spacing) on your choice of topic related to any type of marine environmental concern - submitted into the Assignment Center as an attached doc file. Detailed directions are found in the PDF attachment above.

B. What I am Looking For In a Written Proposal:

1. **Focused Narrow Topic** - narrowed to manageable breadth (presentable in 8 minutes)
2. **Focused Purpose** – become an *Expert* on your topic -- inform your fellow students
3. **Interesting choice of topic** – makes we want to read your proposal
4. **Completeness and Detail** - concise and to the point
5. **Thoughtful organization and planning** – reflects the time and energy put into proposal
6. **Correct Spelling and Grammar** – college-level writing requires this
7. **Consist of at least 400 words** – up to 500 words acceptable

C. What to Write:

1. What is the title of your research topic? Be as specific as possible. Note that it **MUST** be an environmental concern related to the ocean.
2. Write an opening topic paragraph that clearly introduces, describes, and briefly explains your topic of choice.
3. Write another paragraph on why you choice this topic? Also it's importance to the marine environment, the planet, and to us humans.
4. Write a closing paragraph on your research action plan. A general game plan on how you are going to find the information on your topic.
You must adequately address all four items to get full points. Please read the detailed instructions by downloading the attached PDF file.

D. Grading Rubric: Mandatory Components of the Research Proposal Paper

Focused Research Topic Title – 5 points possible

1. Clearly state (write) a narrow marine environmental topic that you propose to research
2. Proposal must have a written title of the research topic at top of paper.
3. Your research topic must be fairly narrow in scope. For example, if you are covering endangered sea turtles, you should pick one species of sea turtle - not all types of turtles,

Topic Sentence and Description Paragraph – up to 5 points possible

1. In the first sentence of the proposal, you need to state specifically what exactly you will be covering within your chosen topic one sentence. For example, if you are covering pollution, you need to state exactly what type of pollution you will actually cover (clearly you do not have the time to research everything about ocean pollution).
2. Provide a general background description of topic (several sentences)
3. What is it? – Where is it? – What does it do? – Importance?
4. Pretend that the reader knows virtually nothing about the topic.

Purpose of Research Paragraph – up to 5 points possible

1. Clearly state the answers to the following questions (several sentences):
2. Why did you choose this particular topic? – Importance to ocean, you and/or class?
3. What do you hope to learn from your research?

The Research Plan Paragraph– up to 5 points possible

1. Clearly describe how you plan on carrying out your research.
2. You must **include the following two key components** of your research effort:
3. What sort of specific information will you need to collect about your topic?
4. Where are all the specific places that you will search for your topic information?
5. You need to be much more specific than just listing “Library” and “Internet”.

Writing Quality – Subtraction of up to 5 points possible

1. College-level writing skills in putting together this proposal are expected.
2. Points will be detracted for poor quality.
3. Below are the four writing quality categories
 - ✓ Legibility
 - ✓ Organization
 - ✓ Perfect spelling
 - ✓ Good grammar

Total possible points = 20 points