

English 1213: Paper Proposal

You must answer all questions, write a paragraph, and provide a works cited for full credit (50 points). Due: Date listed on WebCT, uploaded as a DOC attached file in the assignment area of WebCT.

1. Determine your position for this issue and state it in a sentence.

Example: I think someone convicted of a crime years ago before DNA testing was available has the right to that technology today to prove innocence.

2. Take your position statement and re-state it as an argumentative thesis that clearly takes a position on the issue.

Example: The courts should clarify the law and allow convicted prisoners access to DNA testing in cases that pre-date this technology.

3. State one major reason to support your thesis.

Example: The basic rights of due process dictate that the law should do everything possible to determine guilt beyond doubt.

4. Using “because,” tie your thesis and topic sentence together.

Example: Smoking should be banned in public places because second-hand smoke harms other people’s health.

5. Repeat steps 3-4 and find at least two other reasons (topic sentences) to support your thesis in the form of because clauses.

6. Identify a major opposition to your position (counterargument).

Example: Giving prisoners access to DNA testing would increase frivolous requests that would only bog down the system and prolong justice.

7. Provide works cited entries for at least three preliminary, academic sources that you could use in this paper.

[List Works Cited Here](#)

8. Write a short paragraph that explains the following:

- a. Your purpose – what do you want to happen as a result of someone reading this?
- b. Your intended audience
- c. Your reasons for choosing this topic (how does it connect to your own life)