

### **RESEARCH PROPOSAL**

What is the purpose of a “*research proposal*”?

- Demonstrates that you have a worthwhile research project
- Convinces others that you have the competence to complete a research project
- Outlines each of the major parts you’ll include in your research paper
- Includes sufficient information for the readers to evaluate your research

The quality of your research proposal depends not only on the quality of your proposed research but also on the quality of your proposal writing. A good research project may run the risk of rejection simply because the proposal is poorly written. Clear and concise language is very important.

Write a research proposal to rationalize the purpose of the research. (Consult PowerPoint slide show notes.)

The research proposal is persuasive in nature, uses some research to support position and states what the goal is.

**Length:** 1 page maximum

**Value:** 20 marks (C.O.S.M.O)

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### **RESEARCH PAPER**

Revisit the information you accumulated in your research that addresses the five sections of the conspiracy theory. Once again, the sections do not represent paragraphs. Be sure to include in-paper citations and a correctly formatted (per MLA) Works Cited page.

The purpose of your research is to develop a position on the conspiracy theory; debunk the theory or support the theory. In either case, be sure to include research to support your position.

**You must adhere to MLA formatting rules, including accurate in-text citations at all times.**



## **ELEMENTS OF THE RESEARCH PAPER**

### **Title**

State the area of your research (i.e. “The JFK Assassination Conspiracy”). But also choose words in the title that describe your perspective on the conspiracy. Choose words with great care and manage their association with each other. While the title should be brief, it should be accurate, descriptive, and comprehensive.

### **Section One: Background of the Conspiracy**

1. Detail and summarize the alleged sequence of events that comprise the conspiracy.  
*Remember:* Always include as much evidence as possible that supports the theory.
2. Give a history of what allegedly happened (“the 5W’s and the 1H”):
  - Who
  - What
  - When
  - Where
  - Why
  - How
3. Be sure to list the proper names of people and their roles in the event.
4. Try to find out who reported or witnessed the events. Describe how reliable the people were who witnessed or reported on these events.
5. Make a list of individuals who would benefit from hiding information from the public around this conspiracy.
6. Clarify why a minority of people believes this conspiracy occurred, even if the majority insists it is just theory or a fantasy.
7. Note any other, differing accounts.
8. Indicate the danger to the public if the conspiracy is, in fact, verifiable.

### **Section Two: The Official Story**

1. Outline the generally accepted sequence of events, otherwise known as the “official story.”
2. Describe the story as supported by as many different authorities as possible:
  - a. the government
  - b. the media,
  - c. a majority of the population
3. Take time to describe how the authority figures presented the official story, through what channels, and how the majority of the population received the message at the beginning of the event and through to today.

### **Section Three: Its Social and Historical Contexts**

1. Conspiracy theories arise because of contexts in society that offer power to some individuals and prevent others from gaining access to power. Give a specific and detailed overview of what the power structures were like in the impacted society of the time.
2. Include typical people’s cultural habits, practices, and trends as they might relate to the event.
3. Describe how average people of the time period viewed their lives, the forces in their communities, and the role of government as factors in average individuals’ lives.
4. List important time period events that may have influenced the creation of the event and the eventual conspiracy.

**Section Four: Contemporary Implications**

1. Describe the significance of the story for today's population.
2. Identify important issues of the conspiracy that remain unresolved.
3. Outline the persons who have gained from the official story.
4. Outline the individuals who have lost as a result of the conspiracy.

**Section Five: Conclusions and Interpretations**

1. Comment on how the authorities have taken action in response to the allegations.
2. Hypothesize how an awareness of the situation would endanger the public.
3. Make a list of what you don't know at this point of your initial research.
4. Outline a list of what you need to determine in order to figure if the official story or the conspiracy theory is factually true.
5. Assess the government's credibility regarding the event.
6. Describe what else you need to know in order to make a conclusion about the conspiracy theory.

**Length:** 1200-1500 words

**Value:** 60 marks

Be sure to submit a cover page (MLA format), the **Writing Variables** sheet, and the **Rubric** on the due date.

### Research Project Rubric

	Completely	Mostly	Somewhat	Lacking
	3	2	1	0
<b>Title:</b> Reflects perspective on the conspiracy theory, original				
<b>Statement of Research Objective</b> Perspective and research purpose are explicitly stated.				
<b>Section One: Background of the Conspiracy</b> You present a clear overview of the conspiracy.				
<b>Section Two: The Official Story</b> You present a clear description of the official story.				
<b>Section Three: Its Social and Historical Contexts</b> You present a succinct overview of the society and the relevant historical events of the time period.				
<b>Section Four: Contemporary Implications</b> You describe the significance and the impact of the conspiracy on the general population.				
<b>Section Five: Conclusions and Interpretations</b> You synthesize how your research would impact the existing knowledge around the conspiracy.				
<b>Resources</b> You state numerous sources: in-paper and in a Works Cited page.				
<b>Style</b> Your writing is organized, clear, specific, coherent, and concise. Your language is scholarly and appropriate. Your writing is persuasive through the vocabulary you choose and the tone you assume. (3 <sup>rd</sup> person, formal)				
<b>Standard English Conventions</b> Your sentence structures, grammar, spelling, and mechanics are correct per formal English.				
<b>Total</b> <div style="text-align: right;">/60</div>				