

Research Paper Proposal Assignment

LSJ/POL S 327 Women's Rights as Human Rights

There are many different ways to write a research paper and conduct social science analysis. This template serves as commonly adopted paper structure and I am asking you to follow this outline for your paper. I have given a short description of the type of information you would put in each part of your paper.

Assignment: Please use the following template (keep the same headings/numbering, and delete the description I have given) and input a brief summary of the requested information for each part of the research paper. This is just a proposal and can change later as you are not completely sure what each section of the paper will include yet. This is just a summary of your ideas for what you have collected thus far and how you will include it in the paper. This should be turned in as a Word document and will be single spaced, 1-2 pages in length.

- I. **Introduction:** This should include a general introduction to the topic, thesis statement (e.g. In the paper, I argue....), the general puzzle or question you are studying, make it exciting, show us why this is an interesting topic. You should also include at least 2-3 sentences that state how your paper is organized (e.g. In the first part, I do X, then I turn to a discussion of Y and then I conclude with Z...). This organizes your paper and keeps both you and the reader on track.
- II. **Background/history/description:** Depending on what your issue is, this would be the part of the paper that is descriptive. You might be laying out historical development of the issue, or the laws, international or domestic, that govern your issue.
- III. **Analysis:** This is the meat of your paper. This is where you really want to be examining your issue in a way that is providing evidence to support your thesis. You would draw from the information you lay out in Section II and now turn to really examining your thesis and providing evidence. Sometimes Section II and III are woven together, but you want to make sure you don't spend 7 pages describing your issue...you should be examining and explaining something as defined by your thesis. For example, it is not just a description of the sex trafficking problem in Thailand. Instead, you are explaining (providing evidence) for why it has persisted. So in Section II you describe the issue of sex trafficking in Thailand and then in Section III you examine and connect the factors that you have found to condition or shape these rates of trafficking (e.g. lack of local law enforcement, economic deprivation, poverty/illiteracy, etc.). Include at the citations for at least 2 scholarly sources on your topic.
- IV. **Conclusion:** A good conclusion briefly summarizes your findings, again reflecting on your thesis, this links you back to what you said in your introduction. Then you might want to end with ways that your issue might change in the future or future avenues for research on your topic or broader lessons we can learn from your analysis (e.g. say you examined one country...can you say in a few sentences what this might mean for studying your topic in another country).

Due Date: Thursday, October 19 in class