



## THE INFORMAL PAPER PROPOSAL

Writers are all different, but creating a plan for your writing can help narrow focus and set the stage for writing success. While there are multiple ways of approaching this writing exercise, you can consider this proposal as introducing/explaining your intent as a writer. By “proposing to write,” you’re demonstrating to yourself (and to your reader) that you have knowledge to build upon, and this is the reason that a proposal or prospectus is the first step in formal manuscripts/project writing. You’re revealing your intent and your experience that will support the intensive research and writing. With this “informal” proposal, you are demonstrating that there is a both known research on the topic and the value for your engagement in the topic. You might consider using the following items as bullets in your proposal

- ◆ Topic and its field
- ◆ Your knowledge/experience/ interest with the topic
- ◆ Your plans for writing & contribution to the field
- ◆ Types of Research
  - Journals
  - Authors in the field
  - “Debate” represented by representative views
- ◆ Your Research Questions (questions that are motivating the research):
- ◆ Your “Working Thesis” (the topic and angle that you’re taking):
- ◆ “Direction” statement/assertion (This paper will/ I expect to \_\_\_\_\_ . . .):

*By Anne Maxham, Ph.D.*

*Director of Writing, Antioch University*