

Sample of a Creative Final Research Paper Proposal

AMERICAN PUBLIC UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

Charles Town, West Virginia

PROPOSAL FOR LSTD 299 RESEARCH PAPER

ASSOCIATES DEGREE IN PARALEGAL STUDIES

AMERICAN PUBLIC UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

SCHOOL OF SECURITY AND GLOBAL STUDIES

LEGAL STUDIES & EMERGENCY AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS

STUDENT NAME AND NUMBER

2017

I propose to the Legal Studies Associates Degree Capstone Professor a study of the following Topic, to be conducted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the paralegal Studies Associates Degree Program:

**Note that you must use headings for these different sections of the formal proposal!**

### **Purpose Statement**

This is the most important statement in the proposal. It orients the reader to the central intent of the research paper and from it all other aspects of the research paper follow. While there are a number of differing formats for purpose statements, in general the statement must explain why the issue you will address is important.

### **Issue / Thesis Statement**

The issue / thesis statement is the central question you ask in your paper and the position you will argue. Your position must be both provable and disprovable. It must be clearly and concisely written.

### **Background**

This section of your proposal must lay out the background surrounding your issue / problem. This section should be detailed so that the context of the problem is clear. You must cite to your sources using footnotes.

### **Significance of the Study**

Discuss the significance of the project, e.g., what knowledge will it create, what gaps in our knowledge will it help fill, how will it advance the selected theory or theories, what new research methods will it advance, how the results may be applied to improve existing policy or procedures, etc.—as appropriate for the study.

## **Tentative Table of Contents**

Section 1 (title)

Section 2 (title)

## **List of References**

List all references you have found that you plan to use so far. You must have at least 3-5 for this formal proposal. You must use at least ten sources for the paper. More is better. All sources must be reputable and scholarly. At least three must be primary sources of law. At least five must be peer-reviewed secondary sources. The remaining two minimum may be from sources such as magazines or newspapers. You may not use sources such as Wikipedia. Your sources must be listed using Bluebook citation format.