

# ENGL 202

## Topic Approval Paper

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This document allows you to describe the project you wish to complete in this course. Proposing a project is a critical step in the writing process. It forces you to specify the topic that you are going to devote a significant amount of time to this semester. Your paper must fit the requirements outlined below. While you may see your research move and twist in unanticipated directions as you move throughout the semester, you may not change your topic. Think about this choice and choose wisely. Some things to ask yourself include: whether or not your topic will allow for valuable analysis? Will your reader be able to engage in the content? Is your topic debatable so that you can be persuasive?

### Assignment Guidelines

- A.** This paper should clearly and specifically explain the topic you wish to investigate further and how this topic connects to the Global Food Crisis. What questions are you seeking to answer about this topic?
- B.** How is this topic debatable or controversial? What are some counterarguments you'll need to address? Who might disagree with your stance on this topic?
- C.** You should include at least a paragraph describing what types of academic sources you think will be most helpful in your analysis? What types of journals will you be looking for? What kinds of searches will you need to conduct?
- D.** Lastly, what do you already know about this issue and your question? What beliefs do you currently hold on this topic? Why does this topic matter to you? Who else might benefit from reading about your research?

### Basic Requirements

***Failure to meet the basic requirements below will result in a grade of 50 or lower.***

- Length: approx. 500-750 words (or more) (absolutely no less than 500 words)
- Layout: MLA-style: 12 point Times New Roman font, double-spaced pages, page numbers and last name in the top right corner as a header.
- First Page: Top left corner (not header) should have: (in this order) Your Name, My Name (Dr. Melissa Birkhofer – spelled correctly), Course Number and Section (ENGL 202.XX), and Date
- Descriptive title centered on the page, not bolded; no title page
- Free of grammatical and mechanical errors. Absolutely no misspellings.
- No fragments.
- Word Count listed at the end of the paper (*Note: falsifying a word count IS cheating*)

Your proposal must be approved in order for you to move forward. When you turn in your topic approval paper I will grade the paper based on the criteria above. I will then approve the topic or suggest revisions before approval. If your paper is approved, you may begin researching. If your topic is not approved, you must revise your topic approval

paper until it is approved. This will not change your grade. It only allows you to move forward in the process. Therefore, write and think carefully the first time you turn in your paper. That is your grade.

Special Note: The revisions I ask you to make are crucial to the successful completion of your research paper toward the end of the course. I will ask you to think deeply about your topic, not because I am a mean person, but because I want to set you up for success over the course of the semester. ☺