

Return of Topic Proposals

You should have 4 marks indicated on your proposals:
General Format (/5), Content (/5), Theme/Thesis Support (/2),
and a mark out of 8 for reference formatting.

The latter was divided into:

3 marks for in-text citations

3 marks for full citation format

2 marks for ordering of the reference list

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Comments on the term paper topic proposal

Point "4" under "Additional Comments on Assignments" in the course outline details exactly what is expected for the term paper topic proposal. The five numbered parts, presented in the given order, are all that is required to complete the 2 or 3 page topic proposal. **(1) a tentative title** should require no explanation, though your title should concisely summarize your chosen topic. **(2) the intended thesis/theme:** Here you should indicate the nature of the case you are presenting and/or your main argument in a paragraph or less. A thesis is a statement of an argument which must be substantiated (i.e. proven) through the presentation of evidence in the body of the essay. A theme is a recurring concept or unifying idea in a piece of writing. A thesis will be better suited to a topic that is more controversial, whereas a theme will relate better to a topic that is more settled in nature. **(3) a summary of the main points to be addressed:** Indicate briefly the source and types of information you are going to present with some salient details, concentrating on the information which most strongly supports your theme/thesis. You should cite relevant references in this part. These must appear in your reference list. **(4) some preliminary conclusions:** Here you should indicate any conclusions that you have reached about your chosen topic based upon your research to that date. Your conclusions may change as you do more research, but these should be consistent with what is written in the previous sections. **(5) a short list of references:** Provide 5-10 references most relevant to your topic. These may or may not have been cited in the previous parts of the proposal. Remember, that online references should be used sparingly in your term paper. This means that most of your included references should be from printed (scholarly books and articles) sources. The use of encyclopedias and "popular" books as references is generally not acceptable. These can be useful in identifying relevant primary sources, however.

Remember, your term paper will be, at most, 12 pages long. You should craft your proposal with this in mind, taking into consideration the limited amount of information that can be covered in the available space. Also remember to ensure that both geological and cultural aspects of your topic are clearly evident in your proposal (particularly in the theme/thesis, point summary and conclusions).

iii. Examples of types of references, including electronic references

Journal article:

Kovanen, D.J., and Slaymaker, O. 2003. Lake Terrell upland glacial resurgences and implications for late-glacial history, northwestern Washington State, U.S.A. *Canadian Journal of Earth Sciences*, **40**: 1767–1772.

Report:

Sanders, W.W., Jr., and Elleby, H.A. 1970. Distribution of wheel loads in highway bridges. National Cooperative Highway Research Program Report 83, Transportation Research Board, National Research Council, Washington, D.C.

Book:

Williams, R.A. 1987. *Communication systems analysis and design*. Prentice-Hall, Inc., Englewood Cliffs, N.J.

Part of book:

Healey, M.C. 1980. The ecology of juvenile salmon in Georgia Strait, British Columbia. *In* *Salmonid ecosystems of the North Pacific*. Edited by W.J. McNeil and D.C. Himsworth. Oregon State University Press, Corvallis, Oreg. pp. 203–229.

Paper in conference proceedings:

Whittaker, A.A., Uang, C.-M., and Bertero, V.F. 1990. Experimental seismic response of steel dual systems. *In* *Proceedings of the 4th U.S. National Conference on Earthquake Engineering*, Palm Springs, Calif., Vol. 2, pp. 655–664.

Institutional publications and pamphlets:

Dzikowski, P.A., Kirby, G., Read, G., and Richards, W.G. 1984. The climate for agriculture in Atlantic Canada. Available from the Atlantic Advisory Committee on Agrometeorology, Halifax, N.S. Publ. ACA 84-2-500. Agdex No. 070.

Corporate author:

American Public Health Association, American Water Works Association, and Water Pollution Control Federation. 1975. *Standard methods for the examination of water and wastewater*. 14th ed. American Public Health Association, American Water Works Association, and Water Pollution Control Federation, Washington, D.C.

Thesis:

Keller, C.P. 1987. The role of polysaccharidases in acid wall loosening of epidermal tissue from young *Phaseolus vulgaris* L. hypocotyls. M.Sc. thesis, Department of Botany, The University of British Columbia, Vancouver, B.C.

Electronic citation:

Quinion, M.B. 1998. Citing online sources: advice on online citation formats [online]. Available from <http://clever.net/quinion/words/citation.html> [cited 20 October 1998].

I provided the following, more detailed, instructions and examples for referencing websites.

Authored web articles

These should be cited in a very similar way to print references.

Publication dates (years) for these articles should be made clear somewhere therein. If not, just leave the date portion out of the citation.

Judd, T.E. 1998. The sequestering of secondary compounds from sponges by nudibranchs. Available from http://www.colostate.edu/Depts/Entomology/courses/en570/papers_1998/judd.html [cited 1 October 2001].

Unauthored web articles

Provide a short general description of the content and source of the web article. If a title is given, it should be used instead of the description. Then indicate the web address and the date that you accessed the article.

Mount St. Helens article, Discovery Channel website. Available from <http://dsc/discovery.com/news/afp/20041004/helens.html> [cited 20 February 2005].

Pearls article, American Museum of Natural History website. Available from <http://www.amnh.org/exhibitions/pearls/> [cited 21 February 2005].

5. A note about plagiarism and references: Plagiarism is a very serious academic offence meriting severe penalties up to and including expulsion from the university (see the current UWO Calendar for details). Any incidence of suspected plagiarism in this course will be investigated thoroughly and appropriate action will be taken. All work submitted by each student must reflect a unique effort that is their own. All assignments must be written in the student's own words. Citations of passages from the literature must be paraphrased by the student (direct quotes are unacceptable except where unavoidable for purposes of accuracy). In all cases, the source of cited material must be referenced adequately according to the format indicated. Any ideas presented in assignments which are not those of the student must be credited (i.e. referenced) in the same manner. Any violation of these rules will be regarded as an act of plagiarism! Please note that in scientific literature, footnotes are not an acceptable referencing format. They are not to be used as such in this course. Online references should be used sparingly in all of your assignments. Only websites that cite scholarly articles and/or reputable sources should be used. As for printed references, web articles must be properly cited (at minimum you must provide the title and the web address of the page(s) in the reference list).