

Research Paper Proposal Guidelines

EDUC 540 - Summer 2006

Due Date: June 15, 2006

As noted on the course syllabus, each student will write a research paper (approximately 5-7 pages) on some aspect of instructional technology, instructional design, learning theory, instructional media development, or human-computer interaction. Topics include (but are not limited to) an in-depth study of an emerging technology (e.g., wireless networking, personal digital assistants (PDAs), digital voice or video communications, high definition television (HDTV), etc.) or it could take the form of a research proposal in which you could assess the impact of a technology on teaching and learning. I only offer these as suggestions and you are free to choose your own topic, however, please have your topic reviewed by me before setting out on your research. **Regardless of the topic you select, you should include specifically a section in your paper that considers the topic within the context of learning and teaching.**

For this assignment, I'd like you to describe as explicitly as possible what you plan to pursue as a research topic. While I am willing to accept that some of the proposed topics may be too broad initially, you should try to *narrow* the focus of your research as much as reasonably possible. In developing your research paper proposal, please adhere to the following guidelines:

1. Be as specific as possible in identifying your research topic. As I noted above, while topics like PDAs, wireless networking, and HDTV are appropriate areas of investigation, in and of themselves they are too broad consider wholly.
2. Discuss how the topic you plan to research is related to learning and teaching. What is the connection? Why is this an important topic to consider in relation to learning and teaching? How might the topic impact those processes specifically? Be sure to discuss why you're interested in this topic and how you plan to use what you learn within your own professional practice. Generally speaking, I expect this section to be about 1½ -2 pages in length.
3. Include 5 questions that will help guide your research and provide focus for your writing and thinking.
4. Using an appropriate bibliographic citation format, identify and list 5 sources and/or documents that appear to be particularly relevant and salient to your research topic.
5. Of the 5 sources and/or documents you identify, select and make a copy of the one that seems most useful to your research. Submit the copy of that source along with your research paper proposal. If your source is a book (rather than a journal article), please submit copies of the title page, the table of contents, and the first few pages of a particularly relevant chapter.