Before you engage in the next step of your research paper, your research proposal and research questions should meet certain basic requirements. Any unchecked box requires further work. Be sure that the research proposal and the research questions are your best work and that you have given each portion of this assignment careful consideration. The time you invest early in the process of the research will help to guarantee a proficient paper.

**Research Proposal**

- MLA heading is present.
- The **purpose of the paper** (to explain, to analyze, to prove, to advocate/argue) is clearly stated.
- The **methodology** (the way in which you will approach your research to prove your thesis) is present.
- **Personal interest** in the topic of the paper is present.
- A **connection** to the senior project is clearly stated.
- **Research locations** (EBSCO, Gale Group, mentor interview, specific literature) are clearly identified.
- The preliminary thesis is present and *italicized*.
- Errors in conventions and usage do not detract from the research proposal’s readability.

**Research Questions**

- At least six [6] of the ten [10] questions are **open-ended**.
- At least six [6] of the ten [10] questions connect to the **purpose of the paper** (to explain, to analyze, to prove, to advocate/argue) indicated in the research proposal.
- The **quality of the questions** reveals that you have utilized the reading time provided.
- **Keywords** in at least half the questions will translate to main ideas on note cards.