

The Prospectus

A prospectus is a “proposal” to us regarding your research paper interest in Environmental Justice. Writing such a proposal allows us to provide specific feedback to you concerning your research topic.

Based on previous years, it is wise to begin with an understanding what **a prospectus is NOT:**

A mini-research paper.

Read the aforementioned statement again:

The prospectus is NOT a mini research paper.

Getting back to the prospectus.

To ascertain that you are on track with the prospectus, it is suggested that you begin by:

1. Identifying an Environmental Justice topic. Although you may do a case study, or an Environmental Justice pioneer as outlined on the course website, you may consider some form of an injustice that is seen in low-income communities and minority communities.
2. Ask yourself what you want to know about this topic, and formulate a very specific research question. Note that this question will not be a yes/no question, nor will it be a one word answer question. Your question should be an open-ended question, allowing you to expand throughout your question in your research investigation. An open-ended question will warrant an outline to break down the components for study.
3. Create an outline using your open-ended question. Each sub-category will be a segment of your research paper, and all segments will be needed to answer your open-ended research question.
4. Identifying an Environmental Justice topic and forming an open-ended research question with the subcomponents needed to answer this question are the components that will comprise your prospectus. Again, this is a proposal for your research paper in this course, so you will be telling us what you are planning to investigate, and what sources you are planning to use to fulfill your research.
5. The final component of the prospectus assignment is an annotated bibliography.