Research Proposal and Research Question Assignment

Introduction
Contrary to popular belief, research is not about having a result in mind and then finding research that supports your presupposed ideas about a topic. No my friends, research is really about coming up with a question that you want to pursue and following it through in a way that makes sense. Thus, for this assignment, you will write out a research question, plot out an approach, and even do a little preliminary research to see what you actually want to discover, not prove. You will also narrow down a topic so that is manageable. Thus, you will not do your research on “becoming a lawyer”; you will narrow your topic to looking at something particular about becoming a lawyer—such as what does a lawyer actually need to study in law school to be ready to get a job after law school.

Components
For this assignment you will write out the following:

- A research question. (A one sentence statement of what you want to look at in your research.)
- A two paragraph written introduction and justification for your project. (In this explain why you will be looking into your question, its significance, and what you hope to learn.)
- An annotated bibliography of three good sources. (This will involve three citations—MLA or APA format—and a short paragraph summarizing the source.)
- A provisional, informal outline. (For directions on this, check out the “outline” section of our handbook.)

Audience
You are writing this, primarily, for yourself. However, you want to keep in mind that I and others will be reading this—so you cannot assume much prior knowledge on the subject from this.

Evaluation Points
You will want to make sure that you do following as you do your Research Proposal:

- Write a good, coherent, and researchable research question.
- Create an introduction that justifies and explains the significance of your subject.
- Do three annotations of sources that you find.
- Ensure that your sources are reliable and solid.
- Create an outline that will help you research and write a fine PowerPoint presentation and paper.

Due Dates

- First Draft: WEDNESDAY: 1-17-07 (Research Proposal, three sources, and introduction.)
- Second Draft: WEDNESDAY: 1-24-07