**Proposal/ Prospectus (Category 2- Sisk)**

The prospectus is your preliminary plan.  Here you will give your paper a working title, identify your thesis and briefly explain how you plan to develop it, and index your working bibliography. It should also help you to refine your purpose and thesis statement further, diagnose points where you lack sufficient data to develop them as completely as you would like, and plan the steps you need to take in order to produce a high quality paper.  Completion of your prospectus, ideally, will enable you to "see" the finished product in your head.

**Step 1- Working Title**- This is a creative title for your paper. Be sure that it relates to your topic idea and Service Experience

**Step 2-Topic**- Use the topic that we develop through brainstorming and class discussions and attempt to expand it a little further. Write a small paragraph, 4-5 sentences, about your topic. This is not a thesis or introduction, but simply an explanation of your topic.

**Step 3**- **Brainstorming**- Your next step will be to complete some form of brainstorming. I am not going to require a specific format. Remember that brainstorming means writing out everything that you already know about this topic. You should have some knowledge about the topic based on your last major writing assignment as well as your experience. The length for this part of the assignment should be about 1 full page.

**Step 4**- **Pre-research**- Before you actually sit down at the computer to begin research, you must come up with research terms and specific research questions. Think about what material would be beneficial to your paper. The issue or point that you try to make with your paper needs to be back up with research. What facts, statistics, or expert opinions would help the point you are attempting to make?

**Step 5**- **Research**- Working Bibliography- Begin the research process. Find at least 4 new sources that may work for your paper. Keep an open mind about your research. You never know what information may be helpful. Be sure to have a variety of sources.

**Step 6**- **Outline or plan of action**- Once you have thought about and developed your idea, complete an outline or plan of action. This will include important information that you would want to include in the paper.

(This is also a smaller assignment, something that can be completed in a little over a weeks’ time. I use this assignment prior to conferences with students. I tell them that this is like having all of their pre-work in one document. I also think this assignment can easily be paired with a Literature Review. )