

The Prospectus

A prospectus is a “proposal” to us regarding your research paper interest in an environmental ethics/land management issue. 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.

Getting back to the prospectus.

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

- Identifying an issue involving environmental ethics or land management topic of interest. There are many options available! Issues involving fair treatment of indigenous peoples, chemical exposures causing harm to people and/or the environment are a few examples.
- 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**.
- 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.
- **Identifying an environmental Ethics/land management topic and forming an open-ended research question with the subcomponents needed to answer this question are the elements that will comprise your prospectus**. Although the **total prospectus paper will result in 4-5 pages** as noted on the course website, your **actual proposal will comprise 2 pages**. Within these two pages, we expect that you will incorporate our suggestions within your *Statement of Intention* paper, along with including your approaches to this research project. (E.g. interviews with/without location visit, etc.). The **remaining 3 pages will encompass your initial annotated bibliographic sources**.
- Please see a prospectus and annotated bibliography example from a previous year. The prospectus assignment depicted within this example was slightly different from the paper that you are writing, but the depiction of an environmental ethics issue and the annotated bibliography are worth your review.

[See [Guidelines and Titles of past papers](#) / [Sample EXAMPLE of a Prospectus with Annotated Bibliography](#)]