

Problem Statement Assignment

English 621 | Krause | Winter 2005
Eastern Michigan University

The goal of this assignment is for you to explain your research "problem" as a prelude to your thesis or writing project. Like the saying goes, the journey of 1000 miles begins with the first step; this is that step.

This brief (about five pages, double-spaced) essay will be a narrative where you will:

- Articulate the question you plan to investigate;
- Explain the context within which you are viewing your question;
- Outline what you know already about your question (as the result of previous research and experiences, for example);
- Analyze the biases and predispositions you have toward your question; and
- Speculate about the work ahead to investigate your problem statement.

Here's a few things to think about

- The challenge of this assignment is that it comes very early in the term, but considering the other major writing assignments in the portfolio project (namely the proposal), it's something that has to be assigned now.
- Keep in mind an audience of your classmates and instructor, which means you might have to explain more about your vision for a project than you might think.
- A draft of this is due for peer review February 1; the final version is due February 8.