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 Sample Research Proposal  
 Internet Literacy Class

**Broad topic:** I will research online identity theft. Identity theft means stealing someone else’s name and credit card or social security numbers, then using that stolen identity to commit some form of crime.

**General questions:** (1) How prevalent is identity theft? (2) What are some examples of identity theft? (3) How can an individual protect herself from online identity theft?

**Focused research topic:**

1. I will focus on online identity theft.
2. The aspect I will examine is whether the rate of online identity theft is growing or decreasing.
3. The geographic region I will focus on is primarily the U.S. and specifically California.
4. The time period I will concentrate on is the last five years.
5. The statistical data I will examine is the rate of online identity theft.
6. My specific research topic is: Has online identity theft increased in the past five years?

**Major ideas:**

1. Rate of identity theft
2. Examples of identity theft
3. Avoiding identity theft

Identity theft rate	Identity theft examples	Online fraud protection
Online crime statistics	Phishing schemes	Online payer authentication
Phishing statistics	Online fraud	Anti-fishing products

**Aims and Objectives of Research:**

1. My goal is to determine whether online protections are helping to reduce online identity theft. This is important to me as an online consumer.
2. My target audience is online buyers like myself.
3. Other online consumers may be interested in ways to protect themselves from online identity theft. My research will help list some of these protections.
4. My assumptions are that both identity theft and ways to combat it are both increasing as more individuals use the Internet as a shopping source.
5. I hope to find statistics that will reveal whether online protections are helping to reduce the rate of online identity theft.
6. I narrowed my topic based on some of the articles I located on this subject.

(For the table below, substitute due dates from your current syllabus)

10/23/11	10/23-11/5/11	10/23-11/5/11	11/6/11	11/7-11/12/11	11/13/11
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Research proposal due	Search for quality information sources	Update ERD source list	ERD due	Create correctly formatted annotated bibliography	Annotated bibliography due
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