The second category is called a Research Proposal. Research proposals can be found in the social & natural sciences as well as in disciplines like communications and religion. This type of proposal involves choosing a topic that has been explored on a scholarly level. First, you should find at least three sources that come from academic journals or other scholarly sources (do not use Google or the Internet at large). You will need to read those sources and determine what additional research might need to be done to fill in an existing gap, add on to current research, or to solve an issue. This additional research is essentially what you are proposing. This style of proposal comes with three main sections: 1) an introduction (which provides context for the topic chosen), 2) a literature review (which summarizes the main findings of the sources from earlier in terms of a specific aspect based on the research and analyzes the content of those sources), and 3) future research (which explains exactly what future research needs to be done, hence the proposal part of the essay). The literature review and future research section are the major components of this assignment that will require more effort on your part. A literature review is supposed to have a focus. For example, if my major was education, I might do the literature review on iPad use in the high school classroom. That is very specific and there are articles and other resources that explore that. I would use the ENG 112 Research Database and the education-specific resources to find articles from journals and other credible sources on that topic. I would NOT use Google to find any sources for a literature review. Literature reviews focus on credible sources from professionals, not articles written from people with no professional relation to a topic other than the fact that they wrote about it. After completing the literature review of the three sources, you must develop a strong future research section. Based on the literature review, design a research study (including purpose of the study, number of participants, materials, how the study would be conducted, anticipated results, etc.) A research proposal should not attempt to suggest that the same kind of research be done in a discipline if it’s already been done. You will need to be innovative as you think about what areas of your discipline may need additional exploration and how you would conduct the research to get that kind of information. For example, focusing on that topic of iPad use in the high school classroom, I might propose designing a research study that would focus on iPad use in 9th grade English classrooms of an underprivileged school (since iPads aren’t cheap technology and I would probably discover that poor schools don’t have access to the iPads otherwise, and thus are omitted from current research). I would then go on to add more information about who I would expect participants to be, what I hope to gain out of the study, what materials I would need, etc. You are NOT actually conducting the experiment. You are just designing it (and thus proposing that it be done after doing research). Two examples of research proposals can be found on Moodle and you will want to take a look at those because they will clarify some of the explanations above. When deciding how to organize information, writers often use many of the techniques discussed in the STRATEGIES chapters, so do take some time to look them over. For more on this assignment, including a step-by-step drafting guide, see the PROPOSALS and DOING RESEARCH chapters in The Norton Field Guide to Writing with Readings. Length: The essay should be five to eight pages of actual text, double-spaced, 12 pt. Times New Roman font, with at least six primary or secondary sources. Format the essay according to MLA or APA style (your choice). PROCESS: There are four steps in our essay process. Use Exploring Ideas to help you come up with topics for your paper. Post some of these ideas to the discussion board and respond to classmates' ideas. (See A BRIEF GUIDE TO WRITING PROPOSALS and GENERATING IDEAS AND TEXT in the PROPOSALS chapter of your textbook for further help.) Prepare a rough draft of your essay and post it to the module's Peer Review Workshop. Your paper will be reviewed by your classmates using the provided questions (and you will do the same for them). (See DRAFTING and GETTING RESPONSE AND REVISING in your textbook for further help.) Using the critiques given on your paper in the Peer Review Workshop, make revisions and post your paper to the Instructor Feedback Workshop where it will be critiqued again. (See GETTING RESPONSE AND REVISING and EDITING AND PROOFREADING in your textbook for further help.) Based on the critiques from the Instructor Feedback Workshop, polish and proofread your paper before submitting the final draft for a grade. (See GETTING RESPONSE AND REVISING and EDITING AND PROOFREADING in your textbook for further help.) Workshop Rules All drafts must be posted to the virtual workshop web log (blog) as a file attachment in Microsoft Word format by midnight on the date specified. No workshop credit will be given if the draft is not posted in Word (must be .doc or .rtf file format). If a student does not submit a rough draft by the time and date specified, 10 points will be deducted from the final paper grade for each draft not submitted on time (or at all). All drafts must meet the minimum page length requirement of the assignment. Drafts posted that do not meet minimum page lengths will result in 10-point deduction from the final paper grade. Participation in the workshop is vital. If a student does not post to other essays as specified in the virtual workshop guidelines, ten points will be deducted from the final paper grade for each workshop the student does not proofread in. A student must post to three essays in each workshop to avoid deductions; no partial credit is given.