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## Topic Proposal Assignment Sheet

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## **THEA 424 Theatre History II**

### **Topic Proposal Assignment Sheet**

#### **Emily Cherry Oliver**

#### Overview:

The Topic Proposal assignment is one of five parts to the overall research paper project. Each student will ultimately turn in a research paper on a selected topic of their choice with each of the four other parts leading to the final paper. Assignment sheets for all five parts are posted in Blackboard. Students are encouraged to review all assignment sheets prior to beginning any assignment.

This assignment asks students to explore many different topics, narrow a few topics to an appropriate focus for a 10-to-15-page research paper, and then find a few sources to ensure the student can support the topic to be researched.

#### Learning Outcomes:

Through this assignment each student should garner the following:

- A basic understanding of AI technology and how it can be utilized
- Discernment of AI output
- Narrowing a topic into an appropriate, manageable research question
- Finding sources to support a desired research question

#### Assignment:

This assignment has several parts, and the student should present their work to demonstrate all parts.

1. Determine an area of interest in theatre history for research.
2. Ask Chat GPT to generate 20 different research questions around this area of research.
3. Take the top 10 research questions and ask Chat GPT to narrow the focus for those 10.
4. Choose the top 5 of those questions and find three sources for each that support the research questions.
  - a. Students may want to ask Chat GPT for sources, but all sources must be vetted by the student as real, up to academic standards, and available for research.
5. From the research determine which research question you have chosen. Support your answer in paragraph form.

#### Finding Sources:

As stated in the Works Cited Assignment Sheet all sources must be up to high academic standards. Wikipedia, spark notes, and your great aunt's blog are not appropriate academic sources.

#### Use of AI:

It is hard to deny that AI is not/will not be a large part of our society and academic life. It is important to know AI's limitations and the power of students to discern what is given by AI. Everything that comes from Artificial Intelligence is not truth and as students you have the unique ability to utilize this software but must be wary of what is given. As the author of a paper, you must present the ideas as your own and utilizing AI without ensuring its accuracy and sourcing your work is a form of plagiarism. There will be discussions about the use of AI in class prior to this assignment that will hopefully spur good conversation.

#### Assignment Components:

Please present the assignment in the following order:

- A brief paragraph describing the area of theatre history you begin to research
- The list of 20 research questions
- The list of 10 selected research questions and the updated versions
- The list of 5 research questions chosen
- The sources found for each of the 5 questions
- 3 – 5 paragraphs explaining why the specific research question was chosen