

## Issue Proposal Evaluation

### ***How can the writer improve the sources cited for the different positions?***

*Tips:*

Locate sources for your research

see *PA* ch. 11: pp. 335-338

see suggestions in Unit II: Issue Proposal Assignment

Evaluate the sources you find

see *PA* ch. 11: pp. 338-341

see General resources: Source Types

see General resources: Source Workshop (CRAAP test)

see General resources: Scholarly Source Workshop

Does the writer have reliable, academic sources—at least one arguing for each position?

### ***How can the writer improve the list of positions on this issue?***

1. Are there at least three positions? Are all of the positions meaningfully different from each other? Could any of them be made more clearly different from the others?
2. Are all of the positions the same kind of claim?  
(see *PA* ch. 5, especially page 149 and following pages)
  - all claims of fact?
    - *Example:* Louise Mallard did not see her husband return.
  - all claims of definition?
    - *Example:* “The Story of An Hour” is a cautionary tale about the dangers of technology.
  - all claims of cause?
    - *Example:* The technology of the telegraph contributed to Louise Mallard’s death.
  - all claims of value?
    - *Example:* Louise Mallard’s desire for total autonomy is (portrayed as) unreasonable for a married person.
  - all claims of policy?
    - *Example:* When we interpret stories like “The Story of An Hour,” we need to pay attention to the historical context of technology.
3. Are all of the positions answering the same question? (The issue may need to be reworded as a question.) How could the issue or the positions be revised so that the positions are parallel answers to the same question?

### ***How can the writer improve the reasons/arguments supporting each position?***

Are these the reasons given by scholars who believe in these positions? (What page or pages in each source does the reason/argument come from?)

### ***How can the writer improve his or her own position/claim?***

Identify the writer’s claim (the position he/she favors). How can it be made more clear, focused, appropriately complex, and arguable?  
(see General resources: Improve Thesis)