Please read this post and give me your suggestions and opinions on the topic/content of this post.

**Part one**

**Research Proposal Assignment**

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**Assignment Instructions**

This is the first installment of a two-part assignment, (Part one due date is November 12, 2015), with the second part being a 10-page research paper due by the end of Week 4 (by November 30, 2015) (Please see Part two attachment). In this research paper, you will be expected to assess the relative merits of two IR theories in explaining the outcome of a case study of your choice. In this preliminary assignment you will present a research proposal for this research paper. The proposal will consist of:

1. A  brief description of the specific case-study that you are interested in examining, and an explanation for why this is an important case to study (for example: the Cold War, the Israeli-Arab conflict, the Kyoto Treaty, the Landmine Ban treaty, European integration, the rise of China, America’s potential decline. In short, there are many different topics that you can choose from. Just make sure that the topic that you choose is directly related to international relations).

2. A clear and concise research question (for example: why didn’t the Cold War escalate into an actual war between the United States and the Soviet Union? What explains the failure of the Kyoto Treaty? What explains the passage of the Landmine Ban treaty? Why did the United States and the Soviet cooperate during WWII? Why did the League of Nations fail?). Note that a good research question is *analytical* in nature, and can be answered within the time and space available. In other words, it is not merely *descriptive*, and should not take a book-length manuscript to answer. A descriptive question is one that seeks to describe an event (i.e. what happened? Example: what did Germany do in September 1939?), an analytical question focuses on why, or how, things happened (see the examples above).

3. A preliminary literature review, of no less than 10 peer-reviewed sources, related to your topic.  You must watch this video before doing the literature review.  It explains how to do a literature review as opposed to an annotated bibliography.  Do NOT provide an annotated bibliography. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t2d7y_r65HU>

**General Instructions for Assignments and Rubric:**

All assignments should be written in Word document. Use 12 pt. font and double-space.  Insert page numbers.  Assignments will be graded using a rubric appropriate for your class level.

[Graduate Rubric 500-600 Level](https://edge.apus.edu/access/content/group/security-and-global-studies-common/International%20Relations/2013%20Template%20Courses/Universal%20Content/SSGS%20Assignment%20Rubric%20500-600%20Level.docx) (See the attachment named: SSGS+Assignment+Rubric+500-600+Level)

**Submission:**

**Originality of attachments will be verified by Turnitin.**