

Step One: The Senior Project Proposal

The Senior Project Proposal is the first milestone in the Senior Project process and must be reviewed and approved by a board of at least two faculty members. The board should include the proposed adviser and a second faculty member. One of these members should be from the student's major program. The other member can be from another program in the college. The Proposal Review should ordinarily be completed by the end of the semester prior to the first senior semester and after the student successfully completes the Senior Project Proposal Workshop. The student will not be allowed to register for Senior Project I without the successful completion of the Senior Project Proposal Workshop. IF the proposal is not approved, students cannot register for Senior Project I.

The student may be asked to make revisions or to develop/refine their proposal before being given approval to proceed with the research.

A. SENIOR PROJECT PROPOSAL INSTRUCTIONS (RESEARCH-BASED PROJECT):

The proposal should be no less than 3-5 pages and should include the following components:

I. Introduction: The opening paragraphs will introduce the topic, the main research question/problem, and introduce what the student intends to argue or explore in specific regard to a defined subject of inquiry, with a tentative first draft of a research plan.

II. Annotated Bibliography: The proposal must demonstrate that the student has identified, located and read at least ten sources relevant to the proposed topic.

III. Working Bibliography: In the bibliography section, the student should include a "Works Cited" page of literature included in the proposal, as well as a separate list of references for future use in the project.

IV. Schedule or Timeline: The proposal must include a student-generated timeline

approved by their advisor with dates of submission of materials over the course of two semesters. At least two deadlines per month should be on the calendar,

whether they consist of submissions of outlines, drafts, or final material.

B. SENIOR PROJECT PROPOSAL INSTRUCTIONS (ARTS-BASED PROJECT):

I. Project Synopsis (approx. half page): Write a brief summary that gives audiences an idea of what your project is about. You should provide an overview of the narrative arc and describe defining factors of the work, which may include style, genre, persons or characters of note, setting, and so on. The project synopsis should “place” readers in your project.

II. Introduction (approx. 1-2 pages):

i. Content: Introduce the underlying concept(s) of your project: What is your project a study of? What are the main conceptual questions/problems/ideas your project is grappling with? What inspired you to undertake this project subject/concept? Keep in mind that your project must demonstrate more than a general interest in a subject—it should be motivated by a puzzle or a problem that begs for further exploration. You should seek to explore something that is complex, creative, compelling and original.

ii. Form: How do you intend to explore/articulate this conceptual idea through your chosen medium? (i.e. Will it be a film essay? A narrative film? A multi-media project? A performance piece?). Why is this medium well suited for your chosen subject? How do you imagine the aesthetics of the piece?

III. Annotated Bibliography & Working Bibliography (approx. 2 pages):

i. The “Annotated Bibliography,” should list AT LEAST TEN works that have already been referenced in developing the project concept. The format should include a citation in Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS), followed by a 2-3 sentence description of the source according to the following structure: The first sentence tells the reader what the film, art piece, installation, book, article etc. covered. The second and third sentences state how & why this source is aesthetically or conceptually valuable to your project.

ii. The “Working Bibliography” should list AT LEAST TEN relevant articles, books, films, etc. that have not yet been consulted, but will be consulted moving forward. The list should be in Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS).

IV. Timeline (approx. half page): A description of the timeline for finishing the project.

This will include deadlines for specific benchmarks of the project and should span the entirety of your two semesters of work. In other words, what will be the benchmarks of your project throughout SP I and SP II in order to move you toward successful completion? When will each benchmark be accomplished?

V. Conclusion (approx. half page): A brief restatement of the intended outcome of your work, including a meditation on the desired effect upon your audience. And lastly, what kind of resources do you need to complete your project? What are some potential challenges (material or otherwise) in completing your desired project?