

Proposal Assignment #3: Proposal Outline & Budget

DUE: 28 October 2015

Having had a chance to think broadly about a topic that interests you, and narrow down and refine your research question based on your literature review (highlights of which are summarized in your annotated bibliography), you're now ready to draft an outline of what your proposal will entail.

Based on the outline format Stephanie Hampton covered in class earlier in the semester, I'd like you to draft a fleshed-out outline of your proposal and a budget. Below is an overview of what should be going in each section. Use the posted example proposals as guidelines for how to construct your own.

PROPOSAL COMPONENTS & OUTLINE (20 pts total)

1. Title (1 pt total)
2. Introduction & Background (10 pts total)
 - a. Summary (5pts)
 - i. Using the information you've gathered during your literature review, summarize (in bullet form with citations) what is already known about the field and describe the problem to be studied and why it's important. *There should be at least 3 bullets in this section.*
 - b. Synthesis and Significance (5pts)
 - i. Synthesize the most relevant critical studies done in this area (in bullet form, with citations). In this section you'll be explaining why these studies, to date, haven't sufficiently answered your question. *There should be at least 2 bullets in this sub-section (2bi).*
 - ii. Describe the goal of your research
 - iii. List the specific question(s) you are exploring
3. Objectives & Methods (5pts total)
 - a. Outline the steps you're going to take to answer your research question. Objectives usually tell the reader what task you're going to perform, and the methods explain how you're going to do it. Content that usually goes in this section is things like: Data Collection, Field Sampling, Model Calibration, etc. (If the project is larger and requires several smaller studies to accomplish the research goal, these smaller studies are usually the objectives.)
4. Expected Results (2pts total)
 - a. List *at least three expected results* you think you'd anticipate from implementing this research. This is basically where you describe what you expect to find.
5. Conclusions (1pt total)
 - a. Summarize again why the problem is important, and how your work has solved this. Since you don't really know the answers yet, this can be brief.
6. Budget (2pts total)
 - a. Outline what your expected costs will be in table form. Think about compensating for the time it takes to do the research, what you'd need to do it (field equipment, travel funds, money for computers/software, etc). You don't need exact numbers for this, but make your estimates realistic.
7. References (4pts total)

List your references in alphabetical order and by date using the citation style you prefer (e.g., MLA, APA).