Public Project Assignment:

As you have been looking at research (both your own and your group’s), the ways that your question can be approached may seem overwhelming. However, there are so many things you’ve learned and thought about through your research. For your last, public project in this class, you will create an activist proposal that will detail the problem and a creative solution you can have some say in.

In general, proposals follow the format:

Identify the problem you want to solve.

Analyze the problem’s causes and effects.

Do your research compliation.

Develop a plan for solving the problem.

Figure out the costs and benefits of your plan.

Draft the proposal.

You’ve identified a problem (as a research question), but you may need to narrow down an aspect of that problem in order to talk about a specific cause and effect that is central to the question. As you develop a plan for solving the problem, keep it local. You don’t have to actually do the solution you come up with, but it should be something you would be able to do or help with. Think about what skills you would bring to the table and what use those skills would be to the development of your plan.

We’ll do a peer review of these, and I’m happy to help you with your drafts, but there will be no formal feedback prior to turning in your final draft. If you’d like to talk with me about your project, please come to my office hours. If you cannot, email me and we’ll set up an alternative appointment time.

How are proposals public projects?

In many ways, proposals are some of the most public forms of writing. You submit your ideas to a group of people who, by funding the project, changing their behavior, or supporting you in other ways, can make a real difference in the execution of your proposal. During your presentation, you should expect to field questions from the audience about what you’re proposing and how feasible the project is.

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| Distinguished Performance | Proficient | Needs Improvement | Does Not Meet Expectations |
| * Introduction is clear and contains sophisticated layout of topic, problem, solution, and background.
* Problem section is extremely cogent. Describes the importance of the problem, deftly contextualizes the problem, clearly explains causes and effects
* The description of the plan is closely tied to the most significant problems identified in the causes section. Solution is related to student’s skills and local context, measurable deliverables
* Conclusion does an exceptional job of discussing costs and benefits, stressing the importance, or looking toward the future.
* Organization is well done with all topic sentences relating to paragraphs, paragraphs ordered logically, and sections complete
* Proposal is free of grammatical or mechanical errors
* Proposal is exciting, demanding, and highly persuasive
* Proposal uses the best possible sources throughout and documents appropriately
* Proposal uses space provided very effectively
 | * Introduction clearly lays out the topic and initial question, makes readers care
* Problem—cause and effect section clearly describes the problem, body paragraphs explain cause and effects, closing paragraph discusses impacts of no action.
* Description of the plan section follows from the problem, by gearing solution to one of the significant causes of the problem. Solution is feasible and clearly developed through action steps and closing defines deliverables from the plan
* Conclusion should: analyze the costs and benefits of the plan, restate the main claim, stress the importance, look to the future, offer contact information
* Organization is strong throughout, with use of topic sentences, section breaks, and opening and closing paragraphs
* Grammatical or mechanical errors are minimal
* Proposal is interesting, thoughtful, and convincing
* Proposal contains research and documentation to support all points gathered from outside research.
* Proposal is 4 pages, 1000-1200 words
 | * Introduction is passable but needs better develop of topic, question, or background
* Problem section is passable, but may suffer from one of the following issues: no logical connection between causes and effects, lack of so what, lack of discussion
* Description lacks one of the following: clear order of operations, feasibility, localized solutions, steps are out of order, support for plan is vague, deliverables do not follow from plan
* Conclusion lacks one of the following: analysis, importance, main claim, future applications, information
* Organization is lacking in terms of sections, topic sentences, or thesis
* Grammatical or mechanical errors are distracting
* Proposal is passable, but could be more interesting, engaging, or useful
* Proposal contains some relevant research and documentation, but may lack some
* Proposal is too long or too short
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