

ENGL 203
Spring 2022
Showcase: Proposal

Purpose

Proposals are generally short, concise documents that formally request a change based on current needs. They are persuasive by nature. Your proposal project should be localized to the NIU campus or DeKalb community and should address either a perceived problem you think needs to be addressed, a process or facility you think could be improved, or an innovation you think would improve the campus or community.

Individual Proposal Due Date

7 Feb. 2021

Organization and Development

The audience of proposals varies depending on the problem and the need; however, your individual proposal will address both your teacher and your small group. Your goal is to convince us that your research topic will be able to produce both a compelling Showcase presentation and a solid group research paper that includes a variety of both secondary and primary sources. Your individual proposal should be approximately 500-600 words.

Your personal proposal should include the following:

1. A statement of your topic and what you know so far about it.
2. An answer to how the topic applies specifically to NIU or DeKalb. In other words, what is the purpose and scope (relevance) of the project?
3. The reason why you chose the topic and why it is important to you.
4. Ideas about what kinds of secondary research you will need to find (scholarly research, legal documents, historical documents, comparative studies, etc.).
5. The challenges you envision in pursuing this topic (too few or too many sources, group organization, time constraints, etc.).

Questions to Help Refine Your Topic

- Is the problem/question/issue discrete, or does it concern a cluster of related issues?
- Is the problem/question/issue local, or would the successful resolution involve regional, state, or federal action?
- Is this issue one that can be addressed at a local level?

Topic Categories and Sub-Categories

- *Safety*: police, emergency processes (including communication), call-boxes, surveillance
- *Transportation*: buses, parking, computer resources, green initiatives, university vehicles
- *Facilities*: wireless/networking, computer labs, library, rec center
- *Health*: stress management, drinking/drugs, health awareness programs, SAD
- *Policies*: AUP, plagiarism policy/academic misconduct, grading, plus
- *Living conditions*: food, rooms, policies, roommates

- *Programs*: unequal treatment of certain majors/minors, internships, new programs, coordinated project distribution
- *Environmental*: going paperless, recycling, waste management
- *Diversity*: initiatives, problems, faculty, resources

Group Proposal Pitch

Choose two proposals to develop further and present both ideas to me on Wednesday, Feb. 9 or Friday Feb. 11

If I approve neither of your two projects, your group will need to go back and revise or start over, and then schedule a group conference to pitch your new ideas. You may NOT proceed with the project until your proposal is approved.

Group Proposal Due Date

11 Feb. 2021

Final Group Proposal

Once your project proposal is approved, your group may submit its final proposal. Your final proposal should include the following:

- A *revised and refined proposal* that addresses the questions listed above
- A detailed *timeline* of the research project, including scheduled due dates
- A *written and signed agreement* among your group members

Evaluation

Your proposal counts 50 points toward your grade. These points are holistic and reflect:

- Your individual proposal, which should be thorough and demonstrate a well-considered project as well as attention to detail. Your individual proposal should be approximately 500-600 words.
- Your contribution toward the group proposal. This includes active participation in pitching the proposal, revising the group proposal, and creating the initial group project timeline and contract.