

The Thesis or Project Proposal Assignment

English 621 | Winter 2005 | Krause
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The Thesis or Project Proposal Assignment is, of course, at the heart of this class. It is the last project you need to prepare before you can begin working on your MA Thesis or Project, and thus it is the "gateway" to the end of your degree program.

The length of your proposal will vary, but it will probably be around 15 or more pages and it needs to be comprised of the following components, more or less in this order:

- A brief introduction to the project;
- An articulation of your research question;
- An explanation as to how you became involved in this research question;
- A literature review of research related to your question;
- An explanation of the methodology you intend to use to examine your question;
- An explanation of the anticipated outcomes for the project; and
- An approximate timeline for completing the project.

Here are a few other things to keep in mind:

- In a way, this assignment serves two different "masters" and/or purposes. One is for this class: that is, this is the major writing assignment for the class, and I will evaluate it accordingly. Another purpose though is this project should be a draft of the proposal you submit to a faculty member as you begin work on your final MA project. These masters and/or purposes are obviously related, but they are not identical. We will discuss the implications of this in class.
- We will be looking at several different examples of different proposals as we go.
- We will have a rough draft workshop spread over two class meetings, April 5 and April 12. **It is critical that you have a draft (not a final draft, just a first draft) to show to your classmates on April 5!**
- The final draft of this assignment is due to me on April 19. We will also have some informal discussion during class on this day about these final projects.