

Writing a Proposal: *The Beginning of the End*

Writing a proposal for a book contract, article publication, conference paper, or honors thesis is making your pitch based on the contribution of the idea- its novelty, timeliness, or appropriateness. In our own immediate context of an honors program, your research may have an intrinsic value to you that you simply place in a context of a larger community. Helpful to you as an investigator, the proposal, albeit infinitely changeable, help

Seven Parts for the Perfect Proposal

1. Statement of and Justification for Research Problem
2. Thesis Statement
3. Explanation of Suggested Title
4. Proposed Method of Research
5. Tentative Outline
6. Brief Explanation of Outline
7. Preliminary Bibliography



Statement of and Justification for Research Problem

- Lead off with a captivating first sentence, related to the angle of your thesis.
- Review what has already been thought about your subject in order to establish what you will be developing as a new idea, new approach, or new emphasis.

Thesis Statement

- Narrow, narrow, narrow. The more you limit yourself in the beginning of your search, the more you will actually be able to define, clarify, and develop.

Title Explanation

- Apart from its simply being different, the title needs explanation of its own merit.

Proposed Method of Research

- Explain your critical approach, perhaps referencing critics and theorists with whom you concur, defining key terms as needed. Avail yourself of the grammatical appositive, the renaming of a term immediately following it (such as this!)

Outline and Explanation

- See the diverse level of specificity/purpose in examples of Lemons & McCormack.

Bibliography

- As needed, include interviews, websites, films, letters, articles, and of course, books.

Professional Format

- Looks aren't everything, but in this case, they are extremely influential. Take care of all details. Format your proposal for the current Honors Council.

Bring a **HARD COPY** of your proposal to Dr. Pemberton's office (BBB 101) by the deadline stated. At this time, you will also need to sign up for an interview time with the Honors Council.