

Anthropology 400 – Writing a Proposal

A clear, well-defined proposal is a critical step to thesis writing and grant applications. Your proposal will explain what you propose to do.

Include the following information:

1. Statement of problem.
Short and to the point. A focused question or problem.
2. Relevance to existing literature.
Your thesis must be an original contribution to knowledge, but it makes that contribution in an established field of anthropological inquiry. What is the history of your problem? What information exists? What information will add to it? How will your perspective contribute to an overall understanding of the problem? Explain and define your terms.
3. Availability of material for your study.
What sources of information are available? Select your theoretical framework. Give examples. What kinds of information will you be collecting? Indicate that you have the skills required and have considered the ethical issues and potential problems specific to your proposed research.
4. Collecting and analyzing information.
Indicate what kinds of information you will gather and how you will organize and analyze it. Describe in detail your research methods. Illustrate your skill sets for completing the methods selected.
5. Timetable.
Describe the plan to carry out the various phases of your work. Plan for periods of research, writing, revision, and defense. Indicate how you will get permissions and access to information, complete StFX ethics review, travel (if necessary) and personal time budget.
6. Chapter outline.
Chapters are the containers in which you put your information. What categories of information will you be collecting and how will you present them?