

HST 290: Proposal Assignment

The paper proposal is an opportunity for you to begin thinking critically about your topic. For this assignment you will produce a proposal with a revised annotated bibliography.

The proposal must address these questions (from Storey, 15):

- What is your topic? Describe it briefly.
- What is your hypothesis? Tell which questions are driving your research.
- What will your readers learn from this project? Will you be bringing new information to light, or will you be interpreting commonplace knowledge in a new way?
- Why is your project significant or interesting? Discuss the relationship between your project and some broader issue in history.
- What are your primary sources? What methods will you use to evaluate your sources?

Requirements

The proposal must be 4-5 pages (exclusive of bibliography), typed in standard fonts (12 pt) using standard margins (1-inch). It must include a revised annotated bibliography (Turabian, 7th ed.) divided into primary and secondary source categories.

Annotations of primary sources must include a description of the source. You will be able to document individual primary sources using Chicago Style.

If you are using entire collections or runs, cite them in your bibliography using these examples as models:

For a study of advertising for art shows in the 1960s:

The North Carolina Visual Arts and Artists Collection, Randall Library,
University of North Carolina Wilmington.

This collection includes newspaper clippings, brochures and posters for art shows in North Carolina in the 1960s that serve as typical examples of arts promotion in this period.

Collection type entry for a study on advertising images of mothers in the 1950s:
Better Homes and Gardens, 1952-1962.

This popular magazine was aimed primarily at women and contains numerous advertisements featuring mothers.

Note: Runs and collections are cited this way only in bibliographies. For footnotes, cite items individually.

Your secondary sources must consist of at least five monographs and seven scholarly articles. Annotations for secondary source material must include the thesis, the sources, and the work's contribution to the scholarship on the topic.

A three-page draft of this proposal is due for a workshop in class: see syllabus for date.

Use Chicago Style documentation and formatting as described in Turabian 8th Ed. Save as a Microsoft Word file and submit as an e-mail attachment to gordont@uncw.edu with

the file title written according to this model: HST290_P_YourLastName.

See syllabus for due date.

Common Mistakes Made in This Assignment

- Not defining clearly enough the primary sources you intend to use to answer your main research question.
- Not having assembled enough primary source material.
- Not having a precise main research question.
- Not identifying themes in scholarship on the topic.

HST 290 Proposal Assignment Response Sheet

Name:

(2) Topic Statement and Hypothesis (specific, based on issues that provoke analysis)

(3) Originality (specific content, potential for contribution to existing scholarship on the topic, connection to broader theme in US history) _____

(2) Annotations (specific content, primary sources appropriately described, secondary sources appropriately assessed with main thesis, sources, and contribution to scholarship clearly stated) _____

(2) Sources (relate well to topic, appropriate numbers of monographs and scholarly articles, appropriate to research questions) _____

(1) Grammar, Mechanics, Punctuation (correct usage and grammar, Chicago Style)

Comments

Grade: _____ / 10
