

UBC, Geography 419: Research in Environmental Geography.

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Term Project Proposal Guidelines.

Five-hundred words, due online before class starts on January 13, 2016. This proposal is worth 15% of your final grade. Please include at least five peer-reviewed sources, cited in an appropriate format. Use these sources to inform your proposal, do not simply tack them on at the end.

Submission

Save your proposal as a pdf. Then post it in the "Proposals" discussion section of our Geog 419 Connect webpage <www.connect.ubc.ca>. After posting your work, you are responsible for providing detailed written feedback on three of your peers' proposals. You will find instructions for doing so on the Connect webpage.

The proposal:

Once we have identified your community partner, your first task is to define your research. As a general guideline, you should plan on spending at least five hours preparing your proposal.

Begin your proposal with a couple of sentences that introduce the field you want to explore. Then, get right to the point and present a problem that you want to investigate or a thesis statement that you would like to test. Remember, this is a proposal which means that a lot can change by the time you hand in the final product.

Include some discussion of the sorts of information that you will need, and where/how you anticipate getting this "data." Can you foresee what some of your biggest challenges will be in pursuing your chosen research?

Make explicit mention of the methods that you intend to use to analyze your data and to generate your recommendations. What problems will you have to overcome to implement these methods? Make special note of any requirements for ethical review.

Devise a rough calendar or workplan, indicating what you need to have completed, when.

Remember to set some modest, reasonable goals for yourself here. You are aiming to compose a 10-page research paper, not to write a graduate thesis. If you have any questions then get in touch. I look forward to reading your creative proposals!

See over for marking rubric.

	Sophisticated 80 - 100	Quite good 70 - 79	Sufficient 60 - 69	Inadequate < 60
Pdf posted to Connect by 9am Jan 13.	Yes.	Yes, but late, or not a pdf.	Yes, though late or not a pdf and required a prompt	No
Comments shared for three peers by 4pm Jan 18.	Yes. Thoughtful, engaged, helpful comments	Yes, but late. Or less than thoughtful.	Yes, though late and required a prompt. Or unhelpful.	No
Project defined by a focused, meaningful question/argument?	Yes.	Question could have used some more thought or another draft	Present but very weak.	No focus present.
Good, clean prose. Correct grammar, well structured.	Yes, error free and very well structured.	Yes, though the odd error here and there.	Errors peppered throughout.	Very poor and extremely hard to read.
Creative?	Innovative thought evident.	Entirely acceptable, if pedestrian.	Simply copies ideas from elsewhere.	Lack of creativity.
Anticipates info required, and potential challenges?	Yes, makes explicit mention of the road ahead.	Anticipates these, though short on details.	A gesture for formalities sake, rather than meaningful attention to detail.	No.

Mention of methods (interviews, surveys or questionnaires) and need for ethics review?	Yes, even if they won't be needed. Or, if anticipated, some evidence as to process and approach.	Yes, but short on details.	Yes, but zero details.	No mention at all.
Five peer-reviewed sources, incorporated in a meaningful way?	Yes, all high quality academic sources that are an obvious match for the project.	Yes, though some of the sources may be weak or tangential, or they could have been better incorporated.	Perhaps not enough sources, or they were not incorporated properly.	Sources lacking, or simply tacked on at the end.
Appropriate citations?	Yes, cited like a pro.	Yes, though minor errors in form.	Perhaps many errors, or some sources not cited at all.	Many or all citations/bibliography missing.
Included calendar or workplan?	Yes, including relevant details of what needs to happen when.	Yes, but important details missing.	Only in rudimentary form.	No calendar was included in the proposal.