

Topic Proposal

MJD Senior Seminar

Paper Due: Wednesday, October 6th

Individual Meetings. Over the next two weeks, we will be scheduling individual meetings with each of you to talk over and help you determine and develop the topic that you will be pursuing for your senior seminar research. These meetings are important. Come to them informed and prepared to develop a strong and engaging project idea. They will serve as the first major step towards your entire project and what is due on October 6th (see below.)

Topic Proposal. What's DUE on **Wednesday, October 6th** is a **3-4 page single-spaced** FULL DESCRIPTION/EXPLANATION of the senior seminar topic you are proposing and **its merits** as a capstone project. This description/explanation should be divided into **four separate sections** which include the following:

Section #1:

1. Explain the general topic that you ideally wish to pursue and **WHY** it sincerely and legitimately merits attention.
2. Explain the **larger social significance** of the topic. (See social significance criteria and the senior seminar project requirements.)

Section #2:

1. Explain how your proposed topic has **traditionally or typically** been treated by **both** MAINSTREAM MEDIA and ACADEMIC research. You should address the standard approaches and answers which have been communicated in past research. What past research have you consulted? Attach a bibliography/works cited list.
2. Describe what questions or issues have **NOT** been addressed or examined.
3. Then describe what could (and should) be done to address those questions.

Section #3:

1. THEN, identify and explain the **7-10 questions** that you hope to explore and examine in detail with your proposed topic. **These should be presented as questions and then explained.**
2. Describe what **interesting angles or approaches** could/should be applied to the exploration of the topic.

Section #4:

1. Describe the end product that you propose to complete: Book, Web Documentary, or Film Documentary. Describe **why** and **how** that particular medium would be effective for this topic; also describe your experience working in this medium.
2. Describe whether you hope to be working individually or in a group. If working with a partner or in a group, identify the people you will be working with. Make sure that you've talked with them at length.
 - For documentary film, minimum size is 2 people and maximum group size is 3 people.
 - For web documentary, 2 people is recommended.
 - For book projects, work either individually or with a partner (so maximum is 2 people).
3. Explain what **knowledge and skill sets each person would bring to the project.** (So, the knowledge and skills you bring if you are working independently, or what each person brings for a group project.)

Note: If you have already settled on working with a specific partner/group, you may collaborate on one Topic Proposal document. This should be co-written and co-edited, and it should flow as a unified discussion.