

Topic Proposal

DMC Senior Seminar

Paper Due: Wednesday, Oct 2nd

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 Oct. 2nd (see below.)

Topic Proposal. What's DUE on **Wednesday, October 2nd** is a **4-5 page single-spaced** FULL DESCRIPTION/EXPLANATION of the senior seminar topic you are proposing and **its merits** as a senior 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/issue 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. If you have **potential** "chapters" in which you would subdivide and address specifics, then describe those in this section.

Section #3:

1. THEN, identify and explain the **7-10 unanswered questions** that you hope to explore and examine in detail with your proposed topic. **These should be presented as unanswered 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: E~Book, Web Documentary, or Film Documentary. Describe **why** and **how** that particular form would be effective for this topic and your skills and experiences. Address the types of strong writing, video, photos, audio, and graphics for the project.
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 E~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.)

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