





## **Proposal**

The student must submit a 1000-1200 word proposal (4-5 double-spaced pages, excluding bibliography) describing his or her project. The proposal should indicate the project's title, specify the specific issues or questions the paper will address, describe the historical scope and theoretical approach to the topic, and indicate any preliminary conclusions that the thesis might reach. The proposal should also include a preliminary bibliography of appropriate length.

The proposal should sketch out an argument that a student *intends* to make. Many students will find that some of their initial assumptions will change over the course of time spent researching and writing their capstone paper. Nevertheless, when writing the proposal, students should indicate exactly how they expect their claims will trouble or otherwise respond to current critical and theoretical arguments about their topic. Finally, the proposal should not only indicate the student's primary sources, but also list the most important secondary sources the student expects to use in support of his or her argument. The proposal, like the capstone paper itself, should follow the MLA documentation style.

The proposal represents a student's best estimate of his or her intellectual plans for a lengthy writing project and should not be undertaken lightly. The Director of the capstone project and the two Readers will review and approve paper

