

SIO278: Thesis Proposal Writing
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Friday 3:00-5:00 Eckart 227

Week 1: What is a proposal? What is the purpose of a proposal? What are you being judged on?

- Find the proposal guidelines for your funding agency of choice
- A good thesis proposal should be submittable to an agency to get funding
- Use these guidelines to help structure your proposal
- In-class writing exercise: come up with a proposal title, and a 1 or 2-line thesis/proposal.

Readings:

<http://www.ccs.neu.edu/home/shivers/diss-advice.html>

<http://jeapostrophe.github.io/2013-03-26-thesis-p-post.html>

https://sydney.edu.au/stuserv/documents/learning_centre/Thesis_Proposal_2012.pdf

Week 2: Proposal structure – how to build a proposal outline, how to organize and present your thoughts, results, and proposed work.

- In-class writing exercise: come up with 3 or 4 chapter titles
- Come up with thesis proposal outline

Readings:

Former student's thesis proposals

Porter Sales Pitch

<http://www.tadafinallyfinished.com/thesis-proposal.html>

Week 3: Proposal rubric – developing a guide for writing and assessing your proposal

Readings:

<https://www.darpa.mil/work-with-us/heilmeier-catechism>

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4892374/>

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4892374/table/T2/>

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4892374/table/T4/>

Week 4: Proposal content – what to include in your proposal and why.

Week 5: Writing style, figures – how to get your information down on paper, how to best convey your information and ideas.

Week 6: Writing exercises

Week 7: Writing exercises

Week 8: Writing exercises

Week 9: Writing exercises

Week 10: Writing exercises