



FLATLEY CENTER  
FOR UNDERGRADUATE  
SCHOLARLY ENGAGEMENT

Workshop B2: Crafting a Strong Grant Proposal

## INDEPENDENT RESEARCH

Grant Proposal Worksheet

### Abstract, Introduction & Significance

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**ABSTRACT/INTRODUCTION** – Introduce your project, research question, and its significance.

What is your project? (What, who, when, where, how). What is your topic? Why is this topic important? What are the research questions that you are trying to answer? Why are these important?

### RESEARCH QUESTION & RATIONALE<sup>1</sup>

**Step 1: Name Your Topic**

I will study \_\_\_\_\_  
*Abraham Lincoln's beliefs about predestination in his early speeches*

**Step 2: Add a Question**

because I want to \_\_\_\_\_  
*find out how his belief in destiny influenced his understanding of the causes of the Civil War*

**Step 3: Motivate Your Question**

in order to \_\_\_\_\_  
*determine how his religious beliefs may have influenced his military decisions.*

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<sup>1</sup> Adapted from *The Craft of Research*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2003): 49-52.



## Background & Literature Review

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**BACKGROUND** - Provide the reader with the necessary information and contexts (historical, social, scientific) to understand your research project and its significance.

Explain the issues or problems related to your topic. Why are these important? Define or explain any terms or concepts that you are using for a “non-expert” reader.

## Background & Literature Review

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**LITERATURE REVIEW** - What does current scholarship say about your topic and research question?

What have other scholars said about this topic? Do you agree or disagree? Why do you take that position? Has existing scholarship missed something? How will your research make a difference?

**ENGAGEMENT WITH SCHOLARSHIP** - How does your project fit into the scholarly conversation?

Will your research challenge previously held notions about the topic? Will your project add a new piece to the puzzle by considering new information? Use a new approach? Taking previous research a step further? *Be sure to include in-text citations and a bibliography.*



## Project Design & Methodology

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### **METHODS - What will you do and how will you do it?**

Will you examine archives? Run experiments or tests? Designing and collect surveys? Conduct interviews or focus groups, etc.? What sources will you use? What specific data will you collect? How will your methodology provide the information needed for your project? (Include any logistical details related to carrying out the project such as the itinerary, time-frame, interview questions, etc.)

## Student Credentials & Faculty Collaboration

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### **STUDENT CREDENTIALS - Why are you qualified to do this research?**

How are you prepared to undertake this project? What coursework that you have completed? Do you have previous research experience? Have you developed the necessary skills (technical, language, etc.)?

### **FACULTY COLLABORATION - Who has helped you prepare for this project and how?**

Who has worked with you to develop this project? What previous experiences do you have working together? How have they helped you develop this project? Will they continue to work with you on this research? (Include names, disciplines, research interests, etc., for every member of your “team”)



## Learning Goals & Dissemination Plan

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### **LEARNING GOALS - What do you hope to learn from this experience?**

How will this project answer your research questions? How does this project fit in with your studies? How will this project support your academic or professional goals? (Become the basis of your thesis or capstone? Strengthen your application to graduate school? Help you learn more about your major or professional field?)

### **DISSEMINATION PLAN - How will you share your research findings with others?**

Will you use your research for part of a thesis, a class paper, or a project? Will you present your research at a conference or publish in a journal?