PROJECT or THESIS PROPOSAL

THE PROPOSAL

You are required to submit a written proposal (five page maximum) drafted in consultation with your Mentor and submitted with the Mentor Agreement to be accepted by your 680 professor before you start your project or thesis.

Your proposal must contain:

1. Working Title of Project or Thesis

2. A clear statement of the problem and the importance of your project or thesis.

3. A description of the area of communication theory (interpersonal, organizational, intercultural, rhetorical --- as well as 1 or 2 specific theories).

4. A clearly delineated method for collecting information from gathering primary and secondary source information regarding best practices, growing trends, etc. Here you can use what you learned in your 501 class, other ORGL and COML courses and your Communication research: Strategies and Sources book.

5. A bibliography of at least ten substantive sources (journal articles, books,) that would help to situate the project in the context of previous work. APA style (See Appendix) is required. Note: All Projects and Theses will include a public presentation that elaborates on the work.

Gonzaga University Institutional Research Board Policy (IRB)

As part of Gonzaga University’s policy for conducting research using human participants, you are required to have IRB approval for any research project using human participants. The Communication and Leadership program has an exemption in place with the IRB at Gonzaga, which allows students to conduct studies that meet the requirements for minimal risk research. As you learned in Research Methods 501, using anyone under age 18 as a research participant, or investigating potentially invasive topics (e.g., sexual behaviors/orientations, drug use) require a full IRB review, which normally takes a number of months to complete. Thus, given the timeline for the requirements of the assignment, we encourage you to choose projects that meet the requirements for minimal risk. The link below explains IRB policies at Gonzaga in detail.


Note: Many students are under the impression that they are required to use human participants. This is NOT the case. Viable communication research takes other forms (as mentioned above), such as historical, content, and rhetorical analyses. (See the Rubin text p. 212 for examples of communication research not using human participants.)