

Project Proposal/Annotated Bibliography
Complete Draft for Peer Review (February 10)
Final Submission: (February 15)
5% of Final Course Grade

Imagine that you are applying for research funding from Canada's Social Science and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC). The grant committee, made up of experts from the field of affective studies, is only able to fund one out of every five proposals submitted. The committee is looking for three elements in a successful proposal. The application must:

- 1) Demonstrate the author's expertise in the academic literature on the topic (which is well defined and manageable for a paper that will end up being 1250-1500 words).
- 2) Show how the project will make a fresh contribution to the literature that both advances scholarship *and* has wider public benefits.
- 3) Be elegantly written and show mastery of the conventions of MLA style.

The application is divided into two parts: **the proposal** and **the annotated bibliography**.

The proposal provides the committee with an overview of your topic, the research questions you will be asking, and how you expect that your paper will advance scholarship and the public good. It should also contain your working hypothesis, which your research will be testing. **To demonstrate your expertise, you should reference at least two of your sources in the proposal section.** The proposal section of the application should not be longer than 350 words. Brevity is everything. Make every sentence count!

The proposal should grab the jury's attention with the significance of your topic, the pertinence of your research questions, and your clear answer to the "so what" question. That is, why should the committee care about your project? Remember, the committee receives thousands of applications each year.

