

Project 4: Research Proposal with Annotated Bibliography

Write a **1500-1750 word research proposal** with preliminary abstract, book/topic summary, and annotated bibliography of at least 10 sources for Project 5/6.

We will continue using scaffolding of notes, outlines, sparklines, etc: research proposals are another scaffold.

Research proposals promise to think beyond what you know and perhaps also to do the impossible. THINK BIG, REACH WIDE, AND GO DEEP. You are NOT doing a book report here but using your graphic novel to *think the unthinkable* at three scales: personal, field, and world. The world is on fire and you're studying comics: why? What is the lesson of *It Takes a Village*? How will you write this paper?

In the next two weeks, you'll need to read your info comic/graphic novel AND use databases to begin researching its central issue, formal genre (eg, graphic memoir, graphic medicine), historical significance (eg, MAUS controversies), etc. to generate PRELIMINARY ideas and research materials.

Your paper has three parts: abstract, summary, bibliography. The abstract sets forth the *Why* or purpose of your research; the summary outlines the *What* or terrain of your book/topic; and the bibliography shows your *How* or methods/materials you'll use to approach it.

1. Proposal Abstract: 75 words: use the WHY WHAT HOW structure, with primary focus on WHY the book/topic is important to you, your field, and the world. This outlines your research quest/question.

2. Book/topic summary: 250 words: summarize the book itself: its general "mission," overall organization (narrative, argumentative, experimental), and main formal devices (use of image/word, transitions, repetition, etc.). Your research will cut a path through this larger terrain.

3. Annotated Bibliography of 15 external sources: approx 75 words each (total approx 1125). Combine database and Internet research to generate preliminary bibliography on book/topic. Here use WHAT, WHY, HOW: what the article says, why that's important to you, how you might draw on specific tools/concepts/perspectives.

Eg: It Takes a Village

ITAV uses graphic narrative to situate culturally competent care in the lifeworld of pregnant Indigenous teenagers in Canada. A series of narrative scenes and dramatic encounters, mixed with Magical Realist moments and identification with the main character, reveals to readers that traditional Indigenous approaches to pregnancy combined with Western prenatal medical care can significantly improve the lives of Indigenous mothers and infants. ITAV demonstrates how logos and mythos can produce new ethos.

Use this project to grapple with something important to you (though you may not yet fully understand why), that addresses a question or issue important to others (though they may not even realize it), and/or that explores the world from different perspectives or worlds (that may not do so often or at all). If you "can't find anything" researching your novel/issue, then either dig deeper, zoom out, and/or choose another book/topic.

Draft: Tues, 4/9 Final: Thurs, 4/11