

NMU McNair Scholar Research Proposal Guidelines

Directions: The project description for your summer research should be a clear statement of the work to be undertaken, using the nine headings (A - I) below. It should be 3-4 single-spaced pages long, typed using size 10-12 font, with 1-inch margins, and include the page number and your name on each page. Submit a signed, dated and *typed cover sheet* with your research plan. Work closely with your research mentor to explore the literature, develop ideas and finalize your methodologies. As always, the McNair staff is available to answer your questions and assist you in completing this research proposal.

A. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM:

Clearly and concisely state the research problem/question or creative concept that will be addressed during the summer (and beyond if appropriate).

B. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT:

Explain the present state of knowledge or understanding in the field, with proper citations of pertinent literature where appropriate. (See Literature Cited, section H.) Make it clear why you want to do this project, and why it needs to be undertaken to fill a gap in knowledge.

C. HYPOTHESES AND / OR RESEARCH QUESTIONS:

List the hypothesis (hypotheses) you will test or state your research question(s).

D. EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN AND METHODS OF DATA GATHERING:

Systematically describe the design of your project and how you will gather data to address your questions and/or hypotheses. Systematically describe how the data will be analyzed. (Quantitative and/or qualitative methods may be used.)

E. JUSTIFICATION/IMPORTANCE OF THE PROJECT:

Explain the significance and impact of your project as it contributes to the advancement of learning in your discipline, to the enrichment of our cultural and aesthetic heritage, and/or to the public welfare.

F. OUTCOMES:

What will be the final "product" of the proposed project? Possible "products" are a report, a publishable article or chapter, a performance, a policy recommendation, a painting, etc. Be specific.

G. TIMELINE OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES:

Provide a timeline of research activities throughout the six-week summer session. Include preparation of a research paper and PowerPoint presentation.

H. LITERATURE CITED:

Include a list of references that are cited in your proposal, especially in section B. Use standard professional format such as APA style for your literature citation.

I. ITEMIZED BUDGET AND BUDGET JUSTIFICATION:

List your supplies budget items and a justification for these items, which may total no more than \$200. Also indicate an estimated schedule of meetings you will be attending with your mentor before the end of the winter semester.

Research Proposal Cover Sheet

Directions: Please type and submit the title and abstract and submit it to the McNair Scholars office at 2804 West Science.

Name:

Major:

Faculty Mentor (Name, Title and Department):

Where will the research be conducted? Please provide the building, room number and phone number where you can be reached.

Title of Research:

Abstract of Research Plan (150-200 words):

McNair Scholar Signature/Date

Faculty Mentor Signature/Date

Dean/Director Signature/Date