

ASSIGNMENT #3 SEQUENCE: FINAL ASSIGNMENT- GRANT PROPOSAL

PRE-WRITING: Due in class Tues. 11/17: Two paragraphs- ideas for TWO possible public service projects to be funded-- Bring THREE copies

THE “PITCH”- Three minute “elevator speech” for your project (sign-up for dates (below) in class)

FIRST VERSION: Due Tues. 12/1– in class with cover letter.

Tues. 12/1 WORKSHOP (in class): - - BRING FIVE COPIES FOR PEER REVIEW

REVISION: Thurs. 12/10- (end of day) - with final reflection letter (see handout)

Suggested length: 5-7 pages, double-spaced, plus bibliography.

The **third major assignment** asks students to write a grant proposal, which **describes** a community problem/need and **advocates** grant funding for a community service project to address this problem. This assignment requires some outside research. **Be sure to cite your sources within the piece and append a bibliography of at least five secondary sources.**

In this **grant proposal**, you should describe a contemporary community problem/need, providing evidence to support your claims. After your presentation of the problem, you should request funding from a real or fictive source for a small community service project to address this issue. For example, if you choose to address the problem of homelessness in your home community or Cambridge/Boston, you might present a strong case for funding a community service project that would target the specific needs of particular groups among the homeless, e.g., adults (job counseling) or children and teens (tutoring). Be sure to explain why your contribution to alleviating this problem is important.

Since you will describe the problem (e.g., homelessness) in **local terms**, be sure to present local statistics and other data. Check that your project budget is practical and comprehensive; include an evaluation plan for your program. This grant proposal should not be a multi-million dollar project; it can be an original and creative local project (e.g., at MIT or in the Cambridge community) with a relatively small budget of between \$5,000-10,000.

I will distribute material on grant proposal preparation in class. **Follow the outline of a typical grant proposal (distributed in class).**

“THE PITCH”

As part of assignment #3, each student will prepare a three-minute talk (no longer!) that (a) describes your grant proposal project and (b) tells your audience why it is very important to fund this project. Be creative and dynamic in your approach. Your goal is to motivate your listeners (as fictive members of a funding organization) to consider seriously the value of your proposal and to want to review it more carefully. Start your speech with a solid introduction, a “hook” that will engage listeners and inspire them to want to know more about your project. Students will sign up for a date to present in class. Open dates are Tues. 11/24, Thurs. 12/3, Tues 12/8 and Thurs. 12/10. Some students find it helpful to present before the first draft of the proposal is due, while others prefer to present at the first version stage or at the revision.

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21W.011 Writing and Rhetoric: Rhetoric and Contemporary Issues
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