

Proposal for the Second Assignment

Due on Google Drive Before Class on 3/26

What Is a Proposal? (Same as for First Assignment!)

The “proposal” is a common genre that you might use to submit to a conference, or apply for a grant, or share work in progress with colleagues. It helps others understand where you might be headed with your research and writing. It can also help you collect your ideas and feel more confident about where you’re headed with a piece of writing.

In this case, the proposal is a **200 to 300 word paragraph**, intended to help you decide which direction you’d like to pursue from the ideas that you came up with in the brainstorming assignment. Of course, our ideas change and evolve as we continue working. The proposal is one moment in that process, not something that you need to adhere to.

Requirements for the Proposal

Questions that the proposal should answer in one 200 to 300 word paragraph:

1. **Which two texts or artifacts are you going to write about?** At least one must be a main text from this class. The second can be an artifact of your choice.
2. **What relationship do you expect to find between the two sources?** Are they two examples of similar narratives? What can you learn by comparing them? Are there important differences? You might use Gillian Beer’s comparison between Darwin and *Bleak House* as an example of how someone writes a thesis like this, or you might look at Ghosh’s comparisons between folk epics and nineteenth century novels.
3. **What ideas do you have for a thesis that connects the two sources?** These can be rough ideas! Again, Beer and Ghosh might help you think about how to formulate a thesis.
4. **How do these narratives relate to your own narratives about time, or about the world?** You might notice that you tend to see things in ways that are similar to or different from your sources. In some situations, you might see things one way, but you might switch perspectives in a different setting! What matters is that you are noticing your own perspective on the narratives that you are analyzing. As an example, notice how Ghosh does this in *The Great Derangement*.

