



Jury Project Paper

Your jury project essay is due to your entire committee **seven days before your presentation**. If you are working as a team, only one essay is needed. It may be jointly authored or authored by one team member, so long as it reflects the work of the entire team fairly; it will bear all team members' names regardless of how many team members write the essay.

The essay should be 7-10 pages long. As for **content**, it should lay out your goals, explain how the project serves and accomplishes those goals, and situate your project in both academic and field-based contexts.

1. This means that you should use your original project proposal as a starting point, and discuss what you have accomplished relative to your original goals. (If you radically changed projects, there is no need to discuss the first, very different project. For example, there is no need to discuss having thought about a drip irrigation project if you eventually decided to work on language instruction videos. However, if you changed tack within a project area, say, from a marketing plan for a museum to a proposal for a course making use of the museum, you should feel free to discuss the evolution of your concept. This recommendation is audience based.) Be specific; paint a clear picture of what has been accomplished and what remains to be accomplished; give a specific timetable for completing the project if it has not been completed, and/or a sense of the possibilities for future development if needs remain unmet or if the project's execution has stimulated your and the community's interest in further action.
2. To situate your project in its field-based context, you should refer to relevant developments in the fields associated with your project. Address what has been done to meet similar needs elsewhere (i.e., models tried in other communities or in our own community, models addressing analogous but not identical needs). As you situate your project in its field-based context, you are addressing its exigency, i.e., the demands of a particular situation. Much of this work – establishing exigency for your project and considering other models – should have been done in your original proposal or in progress reports, as you figured out what needs existed and what solutions had been tried earlier or elsewhere (if any). As a result, you should feel free to revise earlier documents for use in this paper.
3. To situate your project in its academic context, you should include a brief literature review. What theories and concepts underpin or inform your work? Are they long-standing and tried-and-true, or cutting-edge and experimental? For example, a writer working on an oral history project might want to explain why a digital recording is the right format for capturing, preserving, and sharing information with a target audience (i.e., treating the matter of best practices and latest developments in technology), and discuss the interplay of the parties involved in conducting oral history interviews about past events and eras. The concepts of history and oral history that inform the project (fact, memory vs. history, presentation,



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interlocutor, selection of questions, etc.) should be addressed. Situating your project in its academic and field-based contexts establishes your authorial ethos in the paper. Again, part of this work should have already been done as you considered doing the project, so you should feel free to revise and update earlier documents for use in this paper.

Field-based and academic contexts do overlap. Consider, for example, a project to build trails in a central Kentucky landscape. An easy, if imperfect, way to think about the field is temporally: what conversations about land use are being held now that allow this project to have real meaning and impact? What design standards and policies exist in the field that you will respond to or make use of as you develop your project? The academic context is perhaps, but not necessarily, less immediate: what philosophies undergird sustainable land use policy and trail development energies? What historical developments (physical or political) provide precedent for the work you are doing, however different the scope and circumstances of your current efforts? Writers will need to determine for themselves how much attention to give to either or both.

The basic discussion of the project's execution may dominate the essay, but it must not be the *only* feature of the essay. Items 2 and 3 must be a part of the essay in good measure.

The **format** of the paper is up to you. It may be a narrative that unfolds from a starting point, through a midpoint, to an end. It may be a declaration of what has been accomplished followed by reflections on the process and philosophy behind the project. You may use the personal pronoun or not, as you wish. You may embed a reasonable number of images, figures, tables. The format of your paper should reflect your polished style as well as your interest in meeting the needs of your audience. Please cite your sources using a consistent and recognized format (MLA, APA, Chicago Manual, etc.)

Due Dates: The paper is due 7 days before your defense. Jury Project grades will be reduced by a letter per day for late submissions, and papers not received 5 days before the defense will result in the need to reschedule the defense. Jury project defenses must be **scheduled by February 9** and **presented/defended by March 9** in order to receive a grade and the \$150 portion of your Fall 2018 senior stipend.

The Jury Project Presentation

The **format and content of the presentation** are up to you. Much will depend on the nature of your project and what you have accomplished by the date you make the presentation. For instance, if your project involves hosting a lecture, and the lecture is scheduled to occur after the project defense, you will have little to no documentation to showcase visually at the presentation; however, you should focus on demonstrating your accomplishments as much as possible: When and where is the lecture? Have contracts been signed or agreements otherwise secured? Have marketing materials been prepared? Etc. However, some projects lend themselves to showing visually what



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has been accomplished, and audiences tend to find that *evidence*, coupled with your verbal analysis and reflection, valuable. PowerPoint/Prezi presentations have been popular in the past. Bringing models (i.e., architectural models, mock-ups of marketing material for future programs, etc.) has also been popular and useful. Showing combined with telling is typically a good strategy. The content of the presentation typically reflects, in a condensed and compelling way, the content of the paper.

Length/Format of the Meeting: Presentations typically take 20 minutes, and are then followed by Q&A with the jury. I distribute evaluation forms to the jurors and ask them to fill them out then, or to return them by the end of the semester. Jurors should expect to be finished with the entire meeting within an hour. You will receive a letter grade and feedback about your jury project by the time grades are due in the spring. Your grade will be factored into your spring semester grade as follows: $(\text{Unit 1 grade} + \text{Unit 2 grade} + \text{Unit 3 grade} + \text{Jury Project grade})/4$.

Tone: The tone of presentations/defenses differs from Fellow to Fellow, from jury to jury. In some cases, presentations are similar to ideal job interviews: you've been advised by professionals in your project-oriented fields all along and now are charged with simply showing them how well you've worked in their fields to accomplish goals. The tone is respectful and professional on both sides, growing out of a positive relationship and promising set of outcomes. I recommend business or business casual attire for the presentation. I recommend not bringing food; you might provide coffee or water if you are meeting in one of the Gaines Center houses, but I would not focus on creating a dining event, as the focus should be on the presentation and discussion of your project as an academic and pre-professional exercise. Thank you notes to jurors after the fact (i.e., not necessarily given at the presentation) are expected, as they would be following a job or fellowship interview.

All jurors must be present. This means you should include everyone on a poll of availability: faculty and community jurors, your senior mentor, and Gaines staff. Zoom is permitted if necessary.

If you are using one of the Gaines Center rooms (where presentations typically occur) check to reserve the space. Presentations should be conducted during business hours.