

# Research Methods Inquiry 1 Proposal Guide Sheet Summer 2011

From Dr. Stuart Reichler

(Your proposals are worth 25% of your course grade, so each proposal is worth 12.5%, and they will be graded using the following criteria. I want your inquiry to be interesting yet simple, safe, and doable.)

1. Originality- Is your proposal a unique idea? Is it apparent that some creativity went into your idea, or are you repeating something that has already been done?
2. Are your question, hypotheses, and experiments related and relevant to each other? Do you have a plan to collect and analyze your data? Will your data actually allow you to eliminate your hypotheses?
3. Are you trying to prove a hypothesis, or do you have multiple hypotheses? Are you making a good faith effort to disprove all of your hypotheses?  
It is possible to use proof with multiple hypotheses. If the experiments are set up to disprove some hypotheses, but not test others, this is similar to using proof.
4. Safety and Appropriateness- Did you follow the guidelines? Are you likely to get hurt or hurt someone or something else? How will you dispose of any waste or unused material?