

STAR Project Statement Guidelines: Humanities

I. Research in the Humanities

The humanities are dedicated to the critical inquiry of the human condition within and in relation to a world of interconnected worlds, both human and nonhuman. The humanities strive to make knowledge meaningful and help us embody and move among multiple worldviews and worlds. Research in the humanities may be primarily focused within areas such as Art, Architecture, English, Film, History, Languages, Literature, Music, Philosophy, Religion, Theatre, and Theology, among others, or it may extend across interdisciplinary fields such as Africana Studies, Cultural Studies, Indigenous Studies, Postcolonial and Decolonial Studies, Women's and Gender Studies, among many others. The humanities do not seek to define or promote universal values but rather to create spaces for pluriversal approaches that recognize that knowledge-producing values are local, historical, and relational. Exercising critical reflection, research in the humanities can be linked to practices and actions aimed at understanding and overcoming hierarchical systems of domination and oppression, past and present. Many different types of research approaches are utilized in the humanities within the general areas of qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods. Approaches may include archival research, ethnographic research, participatory action research, textual analysis, and rhetorical analysis, among others.

II. Statement Objectives and Preparation

Your goal is to demonstrate that this is a meaningful and significant project that can be completed in one summer. Write for a general academic audience since your readers may not be experts in your field. You should consult your mentor in this process. However, your statement must be in your own words with no substantial writing by your mentor beyond reasonable advice for revisions.

III. Required Elements

Your statement must cover the following distinct sections, labeled with headers:

1. Research Topic, Question, and Objectives: Describe your topic and clearly formulate a question or problem and specific research objectives that will guide your work.
2. Literature Review: Offer a clear and brief summary of relevant scholarly literature so as to situate your project in relation to existing conversations.
3. Rationale: Explain what original contribution your work will make to the field, the debate, or to the "big picture," and why it is relevant.
4. Source Base: Describe your main source base and, if it is not available at USD, how you plan to access it.
5. Methods: Describe concretely the methodology and approaches you plan to engage in this project. Also, if applicable, address any particular skills needed to conduct this work (e.g. knowledge of a specific foreign language, CITI/Human Subject training, paleography, etc.).
6. Anticipated Outcomes: Describe the anticipated final product of the summer research and plans for dissemination (e.g. community presentations, conference presentation, publication, etc.).