

186 Assignment #10 : Transition Plan

Shifting gears from proposal writing mode to thesis writing mode

Senior Sequence
Urban Studies & Planning

Grade Value	20%
Due Date	Thurs., Nov. 17, 2011 (turn in printed copy at the beginning of class)

There are four parts to this assignment:

1. A timeline of your SRP tasks (e.g., completion of interviews, survey, GIS, other data collection; analysis, write up, poster, expo)
2. Evidence (list of sources and timeline indicating when you will have the data in hand –see table)
- 3 . A first working draft of your SRP abstract
4. Update entries in your on-line research portfolio

1. A timeline of your SRP milestones (e.g., completion of interviews, survey, GIS, other data collection; analysis, write up, poster, expo)

Provide a bulleted outline, Gantt chart, or flow diagram of your SRP tasks milestones. You can learn how to do a Gantt chart (optional) using excel at : http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CW_wGSFavTc
Time moves swiftly. Plan to be done collecting all your data by the third week of the winter quarter. You'll be required to turn in a draft of your SRP intro and literature review by Jan 12, 2012 (so include that in your timeline). You will also be required to turn in a complete draft of your SRP by the fifth week of winter quarter (Feb. 2, 2012). So include that on your time line too. Populate your timeline with other major milestones (e.g., completion of interviews, survey, GIS, other data collection; analysis, write up, poster, expo).

2. Evidence (list of sources and timeline indicating when you will have the data in hand –see table)

Describe and critically discuss your sources of data (i.e., the evidence you are mobilizing in support of your argument or position). See Robson (2007: chap. 4) for types of data. Specifically, (1) Create a table (like the one shown below) that includes your sources of evidence (data), the strengths and weaknesses of your sources of data, info on what the data adds to your story (anticipated findings), and (2) Provide a brief one-page narrative summary (~350 words) of your table telling us how exactly you will go about getting this evidence (e.g., interview people at your internship or project site, observe meetings downtown at an agency headquarters, search an on-line archive, visit the archives of an off-campus organization, whatever). Include a note in this narrative that suggests a Plan B (if you cannot get the interview or survey data you hope to get what you will use instead?).

Source of Evidence	Strength/Weakness	How does this evidence fit into your project (what value does this evidence add to your argument or position)?	Timeline (when will you be finished collecting this evidence)?
1. Archival Records (be specific)			
2.			
3.			

3. A first working draft of your SRP abstract

Write a first draft of your SRP abstract. The SRP abstract is different than the abstract you wrote for the proposal ---it is an abstract of your finished SRP. Obviously you won't be done with the SRP by Nov. 18 (when this assignment is due). We realize that. Nonetheless we want you to draft an SRP abstract as if you had completed it.

The abstract should succinctly state in 150 words the issue addressed by your thesis and summarize its key findings. In contrast to the introduction, the abstract is a self-contained summary of the key highlights. An abstract should tell us what we are going to learn from your SRP that we do not know now and why is it worth knowing.

The abstract should be written in clear, non-technical language so that the following questions could be answered by a member of the general public who reads it:

- What was the specific purpose of the study?
- What information/research strategy did you use to arrive at these findings (i.e., what conceptual and methodological approach did you use)?
- What are the main findings? (*since this assignment is asking you to write this before you know your findings, you should guess --anticipate your findings and write this part as if you already sorted out your findings.*)

4. Update entries in your on-line research portfolio

Go into your online research portfolio and make sure all entries are current for the following fields:

- Research Project Title (enter your current title --how you will label your SRP)
- Area of Concentration (AOC)
- Key Terms (list up to five concepts you consider key to your study)
- Significance/Broader Impacts
- Fall Proposal (update the fall proposal abstract, this will be the last time you touch this section)
- References (update your list of references to better reflect where you are at now with your SRP)
- Links (update the links)
- Winter Senior Thesis Project (SRP) (enter here the draft abstract of your SRP ---of course we realize it is early in the process to ask for this, but we want you to give us a "placeholder" draft. You will be swapping this out with a more accurate version at two points: when you submit your first full draft, and when you submit your final complete draft).
- Update the fields that call for a description of your SRPs evidence and spatial dimension

OPTIONAL TASK (*Possible entry for your Journal*)

Write a synopsis --- about two pages long--- spelling out what you have accomplished up until this point in the Senior Sequence. Focus on what have been the main issues and obstacles in the research. Possible topics you could deal with include --- but are not limited to --- troubles setting up interviews, methods you've developed to organize an overabundance of data, gaps between your proposal and what you're finding in the field, changes in your research project (e.g., making it more focused or broader and why), the extent to which you have been able to follow your timeline (from assignment one), shifts in what you are finding interesting, etc. Having such notes may help you later as you continue to improve your thinking and writing.