IDS 499 Proposal Overview

Getting Started: Your first order of business is to create a proposal for your capstone project, paper or campaign. A proposal is like a blueprint and provides shape and direction. The more detail you include in the proposal the better your finished product. While the project type and content will vary between students, there are things everyone must address in an effective proposal. Below you will find the basic areas you need to cover.

Title: An effective title should help people clearly understand the project, its scope and your approach.

Summary of your project: What are you doing? How will you do it? If you cannot describe this in a tight, well-written paragraph or two you need to rethink the scope of your project. If you can describe it in just a few words, you may need to expand your vision. If it takes you multiple pages to describe your project it is too involved.

Justification and Professional Goals: The capstone is not about creating more student work; it is about learning something new and creating professional, quality content. You need to justify why your project is worthy of your 50 hours and how it will meet your professional and academic goals. Recycling an assignment from another class is not allowed. This should be uniquely tied to your proposed IDS degree. What do you want to do after graduation, and how will this capstone help you achieve this goal? You need to show how you are pushing your content knowledge and developing new skills.

Timetable: You will need to track all of the time you spend for this class and record down to the minute what you are doing. A projected timeline for your project execution, production and completion also is important.