Elevator Story & Proposal Draft

Proposal Prep: Elevator Story

Like the search journal exercise in relation to the annotated bibliography, the elevator story assignment really is a part of the process of developing a research proposal. Despite its brevity, do still write it down, and keep to its colloquial description: if you were to describe your research project to someone within the space of an elevator ride, how would you do it?

The key factor here is not the number of words nor sentences: it is time of delivery. Write your statement so that you can deliver it without rushing within 30 seconds.

Hint hint: It helps to actually have some of your proposal draft already written before you put together your elevator story—it’s easier to develop something in detail than to go straight to a summary statement without having fleshed things out first. The combined deadline is partially intended to emphasize the concurrent relationship between the two items.

Proposal Draft

This should not be your only draft, but it is the only draft that you will submit. Take your writing as far as possible, following the outline given in the proposal handout.

The one difference between the draft and the final version that you will submit at the end of the semester: don’t worry about the word count. Give yourself the space to develop your ideas first. We will worry about editing to fit later.