

ANTH 301
Spring 2006

Research Proposal Guide

As discussed in class, your research proposal will consist of three components:

I. Background

In this section you introduce the context for the healer you will interview. What knowledge system does she/he draw from? What is the historical development of this practice? What have other anthropologists written about this type of practice or the topic you have chosen? You can think of this section as providing the foundation for the topic and healer you will write about. This area is an introduction to the healer and the healing system he/she works in by drawing from the work of other anthropologists.

II. Research Questions

These are the broad questions (different from the interview guide questions) you are interested in answering when you conduct your interview with your healer of choice. For example, if you are interested in learning about how someone became a curandero, your research question might be “How does a person become a curandero?” Your Interview Guide questions will be more focused to provide you with information to help you answer this question. You are required to have between 2 – 3 research questions.

III. Methods (Include Timeline)

In this area you explain who you will contact, when you will contact him/her, how many times you plan to interview him/her. This is basically an explanation of how and when you will conduct your research. For example, you can include that you will contact 5 chiropractors and schedule an interview with one of them in February. In this section you clearly state who you will contact, how often you will contact her/him, how you will conduct your interview, if you intend to conduct follow-up interviews, etc.