

Alternate Guidelines for an Essay-Format Dissertation Proposal

PhD in Marine Policy

9-18-2013

Some students opt for organizing their dissertation as two to four independent but related essays, with three being the norm. This has the advantage of being publication-ready at the time of or even before graduation. If you choose this format, you should follow the proposal outline below.

Due: 5th semester

Defense/Signatures: Committee members and Associate Director for Marine Policy must approve your proposal on your Student Progress Report. Your major advisor may or may not require an oral defense or the proposal.

Advisor Input: It is important to work with your advisor through the proposal process. He/she will provide guidance on length, content, etc. Use the outline below as a basic framework, which may be adjusted as you and your advisor see fit.

Length: About 1000 words to introduce the collection of essays and no more than 2000 per each essay usually suffices (see Advisor Input above).

Examples: Examples of past proposals will be posted on the MP Seminar web site.

Outline for Dissertation Proposal:

Title - Propose a title. It may be changed before final submission. Example Title: "Three Essays on Individual Transferable Quotas for Managing Ocean Fisheries". Depending on content and quality, your advisor may require anywhere from 2 to 4 essays to fulfill the requirement.

Your Name - Full name.

Date - Date of proposal submission

Background/Introduction - Set the stage for your essays. What is the policy issue surrounding your essays? Why is it important? What ties the essays together?

Essay #1:

-**Subtitle** – Propose an essay title. It may be changed before final submission.

-**Purpose** - State the purpose of the essay. If there is a specific research question, state it. If there are specific hypotheses, state these. Be clear, concise, and analytical.

-**Approach/Method** - Present your approach, method, data, etc. How will you answer your research question?

-**Reference List** – Relevant literature, highlight 5 key references

-**Target Journals** - List two target journals for your work. Provide the URLs for the (a) aim and scope and (b) guidelines for submission for each journal.

Essay #2:

Repeat outline above.

Tasks - List tasks leading to completion of dissertation (e.g., literature review, data collection, etc.). You may break these down by essay as you see fit.

Due dates - Report target dates for submitting dissertation outline, 1st draft, final draft, and defense. These are goals. You may break these down by essay as you see fit.

Committee Composition - List committee members and denote major advisor.
