

HIST 4527: Mexican American History since 1848
RUBRIC FOR PUBLIC HISTORY PROPOSAL

PUBLIC HISTORY PROPOSAL FORMAT – Four Sections

Statement of Need; Topic; Creating & Planning Logistics; Honestly Confronting the Past in the Present

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR UNDERSTANDING PROPOSAL STATUS & SCORE

PROPOSAL STATUS (score)	Statement of Need	Topic	Creating & Planning Logistics	Honestly Confronting the Past in the Present	Other
Accepted (100-90)	Meets all criteria per template; checklist	Meets all criteria per template; checklist	Meets all criteria per template; checklist	Meets all criteria per template; checklist	Meets all criteria per template; checklist
Conditional Acceptance (89-80)	Missing info about topic AND/OR type of site; public visibility discussion needs very minor revisions	Includes context, 3 key points; AND/OR evidence and analysis need very minor revisions; AND/OR cites sources	Explanations for design, location choice, AND/OR consultation need very minor revisions	Answer to question about honest history needs very minor revisions	Style, tone, AND/OR presentation need very minor revisions; AND/OR incorporated draft feedback
Work-in-Progress (79-70)	Missing info about topic AND/OR type of site; public visibility discussion needs considerable revisions	Includes some context, 2 key points; AND/OR evidence and analysis need considerable revisions; AND/OR cites some sources	Explanations for design, location choice, AND/OR consultation need considerable revisions	Answer to question about honest history needs considerable revisions	Style, tone, AND/OR presentation need considerable revisions; AND/OR incorporated some draft feedback
Incomplete Proposal (69-60)	Missing info about topic AND/OR type of site; public visibility discussion needs substantial revisions	Includes little to no context, 1-2 key points; AND/OR summary (no evidence and/or analysis); AND/OR does not cite sources	Explanations for design, location choice, AND/OR consultation need substantial revisions; OR may be missing altogether	Answer to question about honest history needs substantial revisions	Style, tone, AND/OR presentation need substantial revisions; AND/OR incorporated little to no draft feedback
Not a Proposal (59-50)	Does not include info about topic, type of site AND/OR public visibility discussion	No context, key points AND/OR topic focus not clear; AND/OR does not cite sources	Missing explanations for design, location choice, AND/OR consultation	Answer missing or does not respond to question (i.e., is off topic)	Not written in appropriate style, tone; AND/OR not presentable; AND/OR did not incorporate draft feedback

Accepted: Proposal demonstrates that project is ready to move on to the next stage—creating the public history site

Conditional Acceptance: Proposed project will move on to next stage after making very minor changes to proposal

Work-in-Progress: Proposal is still a draft and needs a bit of work for project to be compelling and/or ready for the next stage

Incomplete Proposal: Proposal is missing many elements necessary to be compelling and/or for having a good basis from which to begin next stage

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STATEMENT OF NEED

- _____ Did you clearly state the **specific topic** in Mexican American history of your proposal?
- _____ Did you state the **type of public site** you are proposing?
- _____ **Public Visibility** – Did you briefly describe what public sites already exist on your chosen topic? Did you offer an explanation for why your idea for a public site is the best way to bring this story to the public?

TOPIC

- _____ Did you include **a brief paragraph with context** for the specific topic that is the focus of your proposal? Did you explain the significance of your chosen topic to how we understand the American past?
- _____ **Specific Topic** – Did you identify **three things about your specific topic** that you think illustrate the significance of this history for the public? Did you use evidence and analysis for each to briefly explain this significance?
- _____ Did you footnote the course materials you used? If you did additional research, did you footnote those sources?

CREATING & PLANNING LOGISTICS

- _____ Did you clearly describe **what you envision for the public site design**? Did you make sure to describe any images, quotes, structures, lighting, audio, visual, interactive, and/or other elements you would include in your public site?
- _____ Did you explain **why your chosen location for the public site is the best choice** for sharing this history with the public?
- _____ Did you provide **specific examples of who you think should be involved** in the planning and building of the public site? Not just “historians,” for instance, but **which** historians? Who are the experts on this topic? Which specific people would have a vested interest in your proposal?

HONESTLY CONFRONTING THE PAST IN THE PRESENT

- _____ Did you **offer an answer for how your proposed public site tells an honest story about the past**? Did you think about how the previous sections of your proposal support your answer to this question? Did you rely upon/reference the course materials from the first three weeks of the semester?

OTHER

- _____ Did you **write the proposal in the appropriate style and tone for your audience** (not just for me, for instance, but for the museum director or legislator who would read this)?
- _____ Does the proposal look **professional (presentable)**? Did you delete the instructional text in blue and replace it with information about your specific topic? Did you delete the text in the header? Is the proposal consistent in font style and color?
- _____ Did you **respond to and incorporate into the final proposal my comments on your draft**?