

ASSIGNMENT #3 SEQUENCE: ADVOCACY ESSAY OR GRANT PROPOSAL**PROPOSAL: SES #18****FIRST VERSION: SES #20****WORKSHOP: SES #20****REVISION: 1 day after SES #22 (with final portfolio).****Suggested length: 6-8 pages, double-spaced, plus bibliography.**

The **third assignment** offers the option of writing (a) an advocacy essay or “position paper” on a social or ethical issue, seeking to persuade readers of a particular viewpoint or (b) a grant proposal, which presents a social problem and advocates for funding for research or a program/policy to address this issue. Both types of pieces also call for outside research. Be sure to append a bibliography of at least **five** secondary sources.

If you choose option (a), the **advocacy essay**, you should present a clear and persuasive argument about a particular social issue; you might choose to identify some solutions or strategies that communities (and individuals) might use to address this issue. In this essay, you should devote most of your space to your own argument and address counterargument briefly. Advocacy essays or “position papers” can strongly influence readers and challenge them to understand or define social problems differently and consider various solutions.

Alternately, if you select option (b), the **grant proposal**, then you should define a contemporary social or ethical problem. After your presentation of the issue, you should request funding from a real or fictive source for a program, policy or research project to address this issue. Be sure to explain why your contribution to studying or solving this problem is important. If you describe your problem (e.g. hunger or homelessness) in local terms, be sure to present local statistics and other data. Check that your budget is practical. I will distribute some material on grants in class. A well-written grant proposal need not be a multi-million dollar project; it can be an original and creative local project (e.g. at MIT or in the Cambridge community) with a relatively small budget.

If you want to write about the same topic as #2, you are strongly encouraged to write a grant proposal.

EXERCISE 3.1: Proposal: Due SES #18

Write a two paragraph proposal for this essay, describing:

- * your topic-specifying option a (advocacy essay) or b (grant proposal)
- * your prospective argument
- * why you believe this essay or grant proposal would be interesting for readers.
- * a short bibliography of sources
- * if you are focusing on a similar topic as #2: how this essay will differ from #2

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