

Proposal Guidelines

The proposal consists of four parts: 1) an introduction; 2) research questions; 3) a 10-article annotated bibliography; and 4) your plan for data collection and analysis. The proposal will be about 7-10 pages, including references. You will present this information orally at the Proposal Defense, which is usually scheduled the first week of the semester.

1. **Introduction.** The introduction is ½ to 1 page about what you want to investigate and why you think there is a need to investigate it.

2. **Research questions.** Present the questions you will ask in your study. These should be in question form (e.g., *How supportive are online texts for lexical inferencing?*)

3. **Annotated Bibliography.** Find 10 studies directly related to your topic. The annotated bibliography should include these 7 features:

- a. Reference the article using APA style.
- b. State the research questions (only the ones related to your research questions).
- c. Tell who was studied (prof. levels, L1 background).
- d. Tell what the students did (tasks).
- e. State how data was collected and analyzed.
- f. State the answers to the research questions.
- g. Explain how the findings relate to your thesis.

- Here is an example that includes these 7 features:

(a) Blake, R. (2000). Computer-mediated Communication: A window on L2 Spanish interlanguage. *Language Learning and Technology*, 4(1), 120-136.

(b) This research examined: 1) language modifications during chat, and 2) compared the amount of language modifications between jigsaw and information gap tasks. (e) Transcript data from 50 intermediate (c) Spanish learners that participated in jigsaw and information gap tasks (d) were analyzed using Varonis and Gass' model (e). The study found (f) that students do use a number of language modifications while chatting and used more modifications when engaged in jigsaw tasks than information gap tasks. (g) This study offers a way to analyze chat data for my study and provides support to for the use jigsaw tasks.

4. **Data Collection and Analysis.** Explain when you will collect data, what instruments you will use (e.g., tests, surveys, interviews) to answer each research question (you can use more than one per research question) and how you will analyze information from each instrument.