**Thesis Proposal Narrative**

The Thesis Proposal includes two major components, the Thesis Narrative and the Annotated Bibliography. These should be saved as one docx and named in the following way *LastName\_FirstName\_Proposal (e.g. “Bednar\_Steve\_Proposal.docx).*

**Thesis Narrative**

The Thesis Narrative is a description of your project. Its purpose is to make the case that yours is a suitable thesis project - in terms of its challenge, significance and practicality. The narrative should be a typed, double-spaced, paginated document of 5-8 pages that can be understood by an audience of educated non-specialists like the individuals who make up the Honors Advisory Committee (faculty and students from various disciplines). The thesis narrative should include relevant citations to your sources. Please use the citation style designated by your department as appropriate for your field of study. Make sure that your annotated bibliography citations are in this same style. Please include the headings listed below in your thesis narrative, these make it easier for the advisory committee to reference specific parts of your proposal.

1. **Introduction and Review of Relevant Scholarship**

Explain the problem or area of study to be investigated in your thesis. Describe the focus of the project, including a clear statement of the problem/main issues/questions to be investigated or the areas you’ll be exploring. This section should include a review of prior research/scholarship in this area, citing relevant sources that are included in the bibliography.

1. **Main Goal of the Project**

What is the purpose of the study? Do you have specific hypotheses or predictions, based on prior work in this area? Describe why this is a worthwhile topic. What is the significance of the issue – to your discipline and/or the world? Please address the degree to which it is original/unique and how it could potentially be adding to your field.

1. **Methods**

Include a description of the main methods/procedures/tasks you’ll be using or performing. How will you be proceeding? How will your data/sources/materials/ideas be collected, produced, analyzed, and/or interpreted?

1. **Final Product**

Include a general description of what your final product will look like. Include expected format, length, sections or chapters, etc. Make sure it is clear to the readers how this thesis goes well beyond the normal requirements of the major, and make sure you know your department’s thesis expectations (by checking its departmental document and/ or talking with the department chair). Please also explain where you might present your final product/findings (e.g. Southern Student Mathematical Society conference, NCUR, etc.).

**Annotated Bibliography**

Your annotated bibliography should include between 10-15 sources. Each source should be annotated with at least a few sentences that provide 1) a basic summary of the source and 2) an explanation of how the source is relevant to your study. For some fields the appropriate number of sources may be less, for others more. This can be determined by consulting with your mentor. *If your annotated citations fall outside this range, write a brief explanation for the advisory committee.*