

Teaching Handouts:

Folklore Research Proposal

For your Folklore Research you will submit a proposal comprised of one descriptive paragraph and five lists.

A Descriptive Paragraph

In the paragraph briefly tell:

- Which **type** of folklore project you are doing: Family, Neighborhood, or Folk Group.
- The **names** and relationship to you of two or more people whom you can interview and the **dates** when you will interview them over the next two weeks. Be sure that these dates fit with your work schedule.
- What **stories/events/insider information** you know about and any themes that you expect will emerge from these stories.
- The informant's perspective about being interviewed and any potential **problems** that might occur during the interviewing such as reluctance, difficulty staying on topic, memory problems, etc.
- Why you find this topic **personally meaningful**.
- What you will do for an **alternate** project if something prevents you from doing your first choice.

Five Lists

1. List **ten** to twenty question categories.
2. List of **five** or more things that you can do to make your informant feel comfortable, powerful, and open to your interview.
3. List **three** or more things that you can do in case your informant doesn't have a lot to say about the topic.
4. Make a list of **ten** to fifteen factual details that you might want to know related to your topic such as: historical facts, multiple perspectives, geography, daily life, economic factors, weather, current events, fashions, local events, state events, national events, how to information, materials, prices, national trends, origin, changes over time, future plans, etc.
5. Make a list of **five** or more academic topics that a sociologist, psychologist, or folklorist might study about this group, person, or place. Your textbooks or professional journals for other fields might give you some ideas.

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