Now that you have identified your research topic you will be given one hour to create a project proposal and submit it for review. Your project proposal will be submitted to your Instructor for review and will need to be 1-2 pages in length. **(Note: following this structure is optional and your grade will not be affected if you choose not to submit anything.)** During this lesson you will want to use the outline you have created to compose your proposal. This will check your understanding and make sure that you are properly guided through the proposal process.

When pulling together your proposal submission, start to build your project outline. Below is an example of what your proposal outline should look like:

1. Project topic - identify the topic of your project and why you chose it. “The Effectiveness of the PPP Loan Program”

What could be done differently to mitigate fraud.

Have preset parameters in place for future needs.

Look for additional info for PPP Loans in Texas

Business objective - identify what problem you are trying to solve or the objective you want to support. (https://www.stlouisfed.org/publications/regional-economist/2022/jul/was-paycheck-protection-program-effective)

1. Intended audience - identify who will benefit from this proposal and how they can make decisions based on your analysis. Bank Stakeholders
2. Previous research or current knowledge - identify if you have worked on previous analysis or have current knowledge of your topic. I have current knowledge of my topic.
3. Project design - identify your project workflow.

a. Identify overall loans, lenders, average PPP loan, average company size. (loans=11,460,474/lenders=4,318/average loan amount=$68,903/average company size=8) <https://www.federalpay.org/paycheck-protection-program>

b. Identify overall loans, lenders, average PPP loan, average company size for Texas. (loans=938,289/total loan amount=$62.6B/average loan amount=$66,767/average company size=8) <https://www.federalpay.org/paycheck-protection-program>

c. What funds were used for (by category, by business type, by

1. Analysis - identify how you plan to conduct the analysis.
2. Data collection - identify what data you plan to use to meet the business objective and include a link to access the data.
3. Intended outcome - identify what you think the outcome of the analysis will be.

As you are reviewing your proposal are you able to say ‘yes’ to the following:

* Is it appropriate for the intended audience?
* Does the story make sense?
* Does it clearly communicate some insights that can inform decision-making?

If you cannot say ‘yes’ or are borderline, go back and make revisions. Your proposal is the foundation of your final project. You want it to be as clear and easy to understand as possible. Before submitting your proposal use the checklist below to ensure your proposal is ready to go:

* Avoid repetition and self-plagiarism.
* Don’t use long sentences. Only include relevant talking points about your topic.
* Proofread your proposal. Even a single grammatical or punctuation error may spoil the impression from a good capstone project.
* Make sure your business objective is easy to understand and your intended audience is identified.

The Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) was a business relief program that was implemented during Covid-19 to assist failing businesses. The program was part of the CARES Act passed by the House and Senate which included billions in forgivable funds to small businesses. Overall, there were 4,885,388 loans totaling $521,483,817,756 approved and disbursed to struggling businesses. There were 5,461 lenders who participated in the disbursement of funds that were to be used to cover payroll costs and other crucial business expenses such as utilities, insurance, business debt and taxes. A total of $62.6 billion was disbursed for Texas for an average loan amount of $66,767 with an average company size of 8.

My overall objective is to identify the program’s effectiveness for the state of Texas by analyzing total loan proceeds per business type, what proceeds were used for (payroll, insurance, utilities, mortgage etc....), average business age and current loan status.

There were 938,531 Texas businesses who benefited from the loan. With a total of $62.6 billion being disbursed for an average loan amount of $66,767 and an average company size of 8. Overall, the program was effective and helped businesses in need. The program was initiated abruptly which led to an extensive amount of fraud because of improper preparation and lack of internal controls. Even while taking into consideration the amount of fraudulent loans that were identified, almost all PPP loans have been forgiven.

To conduct my analysis, I will be using data collected from the following websites: <https://www.federalpay.org/paycheck-protection-program>

<https://www.federalpay.org/paycheck-protection-program/tx#:~:text=Texas%20has%20a%20total%20of,and%20number%20of%20jobs%20reported> https://www.kaggle.com/datasets/danb91/covid-ppp-loan-data-with-fraud-examples