Proposal for a Thesis

in the Field of [YOUR CONCENTRATION]

in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the

Master of Liberal Arts Degree

Harvard University

Extension School

[CURRENT DATE]

[YOUR NAME]

[YOUR CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE]

I.

Tentative Title

Tentative title “[WHAT YOU PROPOSE TO TITLE YOUR THESIS].”

II.

Research Problem/Abstract

[FOR CONCENTRATORS IN THE LIBERAL ARTS, USE “RESEARCH PROBLEM” AS THE HEADER. FOR CONCENTRATORS IN IT, USE “ABSRACT”.]

[INTRODUCE YOUR TOPIC.]

[DESCRIBE YOUR RESEARCH QUESTION OR QUESTIONS.]

III.

Definition of Terms

[LIST TERMS IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER; DEFINE TERMS AS YOU ARE USING THEM IN YOUR PROPOSAL; INCLUDE ACRONYMS, IF ANY]

*[TERM]*: [DEFINITION]

*[TERM]*: [DEFINITION]

*[TERM]*: [DEFINITION]

IV.

Background and Significance

[PROVIDE THE BACKGROUND OF THE TOPIC; DESCRIBE PRIOR RESEARCH AND HOW THE PROPOSED RESEARCH OR ARGUMENT FITS IN THIS FRAMEWORK.]

V.

Research Methods

[DECRIBE THE APPROACH OR METHODS OF RESEARCH YOU WILL BE USING. INCLUDE THE LIMITIONS ON YOUR RESEARCH, BOTH LIMITS YOU WILL BE IMPOSING (“I will not be including in my research…. I will not be using Sanskrit,” etc.) AND OUTSIDE LIMITATIONS (I will not be able to travel to Timbuktu,” for example.) THIS SECTION MAY ALSO INCLUDE USE OF HUMAN SUBJECTS, INVESTIGATOR QUALIFICATIONS, ISSUES AROUND CONFIDENTIALITY AND PATENTS, POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS, AND FUNDING SOURCES.]

VI.

Tentative Schedule

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Proposal accepted by advisor  Thesis director agrees to serve  Registration for thesis completed | Date  Date  Date |
| First draft completed | Date |
| First draft returned by thesis director  Second draft completed | Date  Date |
| Second draft returned by thesis director  Final text submitted to thesis director and research advisor  Final approved version uploaded to ETD website | Date  Date  Date |
| Graduation | Date |

VII.

Bibliography

[DIVIDE THIS SECTION INTO THE FOLLOWING SUB-SECTIONS:

SINGLE-SPACE WITHIN EACH ENTRY.

DOUBLE-SPACE BETWEEN ENTRIES.

INDENT THE SECOND AND SUBSEQUENT LINES OF EACH ENTRY RELATIVE TO THE FIRST LINE.

STYLE IS APA FOR BIO, PSYCH, ANTHRO, IT, BIOTECH, AND SUSTAINABILITY; CMS FOR HISTORY, INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, AND GOVERNMENT; AND MLA FOR HUMANITIES.]