Appendix 1

ELEMENTS OF A RESEARCH PROPOSAL

1. Introduction
   a. State the purpose and central question of your research proposal.
   b. State your research hypothesis.
   c. Argue the significance of the study. All studies need to be justified as being “worthy” of research. The significance makes the argument of why someone else should care about the research. In other words, stress the broader value of the research. The significance ranges from a paragraph to two pages.

2. Literature Review
   a. Summarize and synthesize the existing literature relevant to your research.

3. Methodology
   a. a Unit of Analysis and Variables
      i. State your unit of analysis.
      ii. Discuss all of the variables to be used in your research proposal (i.e. dependent, independent, and extraneous variables).
      iii. Discuss how you will define and measure your variables.
      iv. Discuss why you have included each variable in your research proposal, and the expected relationship of the independent and control variables to the dependent variable.
   b. Sampling
      i. Discuss the sampling method you will use.
   c. Data Collection
      i. The data collection section of the proposal for students using a survey to measure variables requires the following: (1) an explanation of how the survey will delivered and justification as to why that delivery method was chosen; (2) a discussion of how the survey pre-test will be conducted and a brief discussion of how a researcher analyzes the pre-test results to determine where revisions to the survey instrument are needed. For those using an experiment / survey / exercise to measure variables, the student must do everything that the students using a survey must do, in addition to specifying how the experimental process is going to be designed – including whether the experiment is a the classic design or a quasi-design. Students using the classic design must identify the treatment and control groups, specify how the participants will be randomly assigned to each group, discuss the pre-test and post-test of the dependent variable, and address any
internal validity concerns (i.e., limiting attrition). For those using a quasi-experiment, the type of quasi experiment and its elements need to be discussed. The use of a quasi-experiment must be justified as well. In other words, you need to explain why a classic experimental design is not feasible. For student using existing data, these sources need to be reiterated. A written roadmap of where these data are needs to be provided. Simply writing that the data can be found via the U.S. Census Bureau is insufficient. Providing a step-step account that leads the professor to the data is required.

d. Data Analysis
   i. Identify briefly the statistical methods you will use to analyze your data (i.e., univariate, bivariate, and multivariate techniques that are most appropriate).

4. Potential Conclusions (Remember that you are not conducting this research. Only provide speculative conclusions in this section. In other words, if you actually completed this research, what do you think you would find).

5. References
   a. Present references using a style guide approved by the professor.