

World Lit. Prospectus and Video Project



Video Project Tips!

(Prospectus to submission of video)



What is a Prospectus?

A pitch of your project



What is a “prospectus” anyway?

A paragraph (100 words)

What do I need to include?

1. Title
2. Focus (1point)
3. Choice of Materials (1point)
4. Context/Observation (1point)
5. Research Question (1point)
6. Importance (1point)



How do I pick a title?

- ❖ Titles are what get people to notice your work.
- ❖ They should be eye-catching, appropriate and informative.
- ❖ Titles that are too generic don't give people enough information.
- ❖ Titles that contain concrete details and something intriguing are effective.

How do I pick a **focus or theme**?

Take a moment and think about which issues you have found most interesting this spring.

You may have several ideas, but you will want to concentrate on one general area.

Just to start the thinking process:

- Ethical leadership
- The role of violence
- The role of women
- Representations of sexuality
- The role of magic and the supernatural
- The role of dreams
- The role of animals
- Friendship and companionship
- Immigration and outsiders
- The power of storytelling
- Justice and punishment
- The place of human beings in the world
- The idea of an afterlife

And a few more...

The idea of an afterlife
The role of the imagination
The value of personal responsibility and duty
Problems with language and words
The role of hospitality and food
The role of faith and religion
The value of education
Treason and betrayal
The relationship between parents and children
The role of art and literature
Love and romance
The consequences of wealth and privilege, ETC.

What **materials** may I choose?

Required: Any **two texts** from the syllabus, from Gilgamesh to Pushkin (excluding the text you chose for the short essay).

Optional: Any additional materials, either from the WordPress site or from your own knowledge, that enhance your project.

What do you mean by **context and observations**?

Think about what perspective you are taking on the works, in what **context** you are placing them, especially whether you are viewing them in their original settings or exploring what they mean for you in 2021.

Be sure to mention a few concrete **details** from each text which you plan to consider.

What is a good **research question**?

It should be **controversial**, which means?

Intelligent people might have different opinions about the topic. You should do more than state the obvious, summarize the text, or simply repeat historical facts. A “controversial” project has a number of potentially valid perspectives, which are debatable. It is up to you to make the case, based on evidence and logic, for your point of view.

If you can answer
your question with
yes/no it is
probably not
controversial.



How do I give my project **importance**?

- ❖ Answer your own controversial research question.
- ❖ Offer a rationale for your answer.
- ❖ Tell your viewer why your work matters.

SO WHAT?

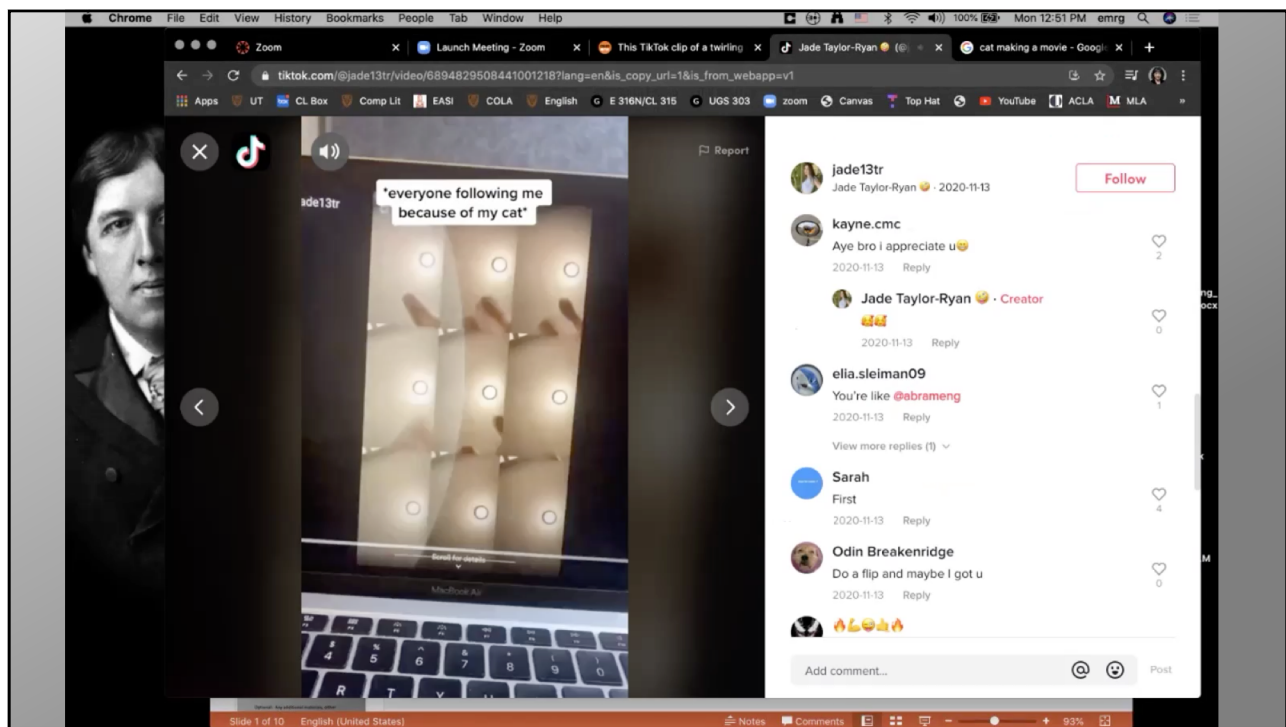
What do I do next?

Submit the prospectus to my TA
for scoring and comment



My TA will do one of 2 things:

1. Approve it and make suggestions.
2. Recommend changes before approving it.



For the video, what do you expect?

- ❖ This project is typical of short videos people make as part of many applications and professions.
- ❖ 6-8 minutes of my voice with or without additional A/V materials
- ❖ I may appear on screen as little/much as I like.
- ❖ I will upload the file/share a link on Canvas.



How do I plan for the video?

- I will make a script (not turned in).
- I will practice the script.
- I will record myself on Zoom using screen sharing (recommended).
- I may edit the video, but editing is not required.

So what about that research question, again?

Examples of not great options:
(description or compare/contrast only)

- How are the images of women in *Medea* and *Faust* different?
- Are Medea and Gretchen evil characters?
- Were women treated unfairly in ancient Greece and 19th-century Germany?



No, really,
I need some
models, please?



How are the images of women in *Medea* and *Faust* different?

Given that both Medea and Gretchen find themselves abandoned and destroy their children, how and why do their different motivations matter?



No, really, I need
some models,
please?

Are Medea and Gretchen evil characters?

How do the words and actions of Medea
and Gretchen both reveal and critique the
ethical norms of their communities for
modern audiences?

No, really, I need some
models, please?



Were women treated unfairly in ancient Greece
and 19th-century Germany?

What is the impact on a modern audience of
experiencing the gender double standard
imposed in ancient Greece and 19th-century
Germany on Medea and Gretchen?

Anything else?

PLEASE JUST ASK!
YOUR TA AND I ARE SO HAPPY TO TALK VIA
ZOOM AND EMAIL!

