Proposal Draft

This should not be your only draft, but it is the only draft that you will submit. Take your writing as far as possible, following the outline given in the proposal handout.

Taking “your writing as far as possible” still sort of begs the question of “how much draft is enough?” The most objective way to measure this, in a manner that can be uniform for everyone, is word count. Given that the draft is worth 60 points compared to the final version’s 100, let’s aim for 60% of the final maximum word count: 900 words. Whether you “spend” these words on fully-written prose for a few sections or on a detailed outline for the entire proposal is left up to you, according to how you work best.

Remember that the narrative word count does not include your list of references. However, speaking of references, you already have your annotated bibliography done, so you may as well start your list with those entries. Exact citation locations (or whether you eventually cite them at all) can be determined later; either way, just start by copy-pasting your already-formatted entries into a draft References/Works Cited section—it shouldn’t take long at all, and it will be good to at least see this list already populated to some degree.

Although we have an established minimum, for the draft (and just the draft), don’t worry about exceeding the maximum word count. Give yourself the space to develop your ideas first. We will worry about editing to fit later.

Reading

Read Edward Tufte’s The Cognitive Style of PowerPoint: Pitching Out Corrupts Within by this week—if you can do so in “study party-style,” then all the better! Groups will be assigned to facilitate this.