**The Research Proposal**

A research proposal outlines your **goals** for a particular project, your plan for **how to achieve those goals**, and the **potential impact** of your findings.

Scholars and researchers often use the proposal genre to apply for grants to fund their research projects. They must make a convincing case for why their research matters. This is why clearly articulating the stakes of your project is very important!

In SA 4, you will use the proposal genre to start to synthesize your sources and figure out what you will contribute to the conversation on your topic. It’s an important step that allows you to organize your ideas before delving into the research paper.

**Evaluating Sample Student Proposals**

In pairs, read each of the sample proposals and answer the following questions:

1. In the Question section, does the writer make it clear what specific issues the paper will address?
2. Given the information the writer has presented on the topic, do you think the hypothesis is feasible? Will it lead to a complex, arguable claim?
3. Are the stakes clear and compelling?
4. Did the writer fail to mention any significant counter-arguments or warrants?
5. Consider the sources the writer will use for the paper. Do you think there are other types of sources the writer should incorporate?
6. Consider the structure of inquiry. Is it clear how the writer plans to lay out the argument? Do you think this is an effective strategy?
7. Consider the proposal as a whole. Do any areas need more development or clarification?