

Sarah Bedore
Lil 420
October 15, 2025
Professor Frank
Journal 6

After reviewing the capstone guidelines and sample projects, I noticed several connections from the project to the essay outline that strengthened the piece. To start, the opening page gave a detailed outline of exactly what their project is about. It begins with a hook that states the origins of the thorough process that started this paper. The thesis is clearly stated, followed by a loose outline on how the paper will move from topic. We also get a glimpse who the student worked with and how that professor aided them in their creative process. Then we see a list of the resources used throughout the paper to accompany the information. This first example is very clear with the process they took and how it captures their time studying the humanities.

For the second example, it has a solid structure and walks us through the question, supporting research and gives some context as to why this is a relevant topic and how literature and animals interact. As it explains their animal references, they have great examples but each pull in a separate focus for analysis. I think in my project so far, I feel pulled in multiple directions and am struggling to simplify the focus, which is also noticeable to me in this second proposal. This project reminds me to be specific with the claims I make and the supporting information. It's critical to be clear on what the focus is and why it's important.

When considering my own project, I definitely need to find a clear direction and narrow my question. I am taking elements of an essay on how climate change affects the northeast in the style of David Foster Wallace. I'm looking at how a humanist would explore the relationship of human experience with nature and society. In my efforts to narrow down this topic, I will be looking deeper into who is being impacted and which group I should focus on. A working questions I have is "how is climate change in Maine communities represented in literature." I want to include intersectionality and ask who has been effected and when. I believe looking at a specific time frame will give me a better structure. One of my sources will be A Dangerous New World: Voices on the Climate Crisis, a collection of poems, essays, and art that depict how the climate is impacting every aspect of ur lives.