

 Grant Proposal 

This final assignment is intended to make you think about the practical applications of bioarchaeology and how much fieldwork and analysis cost. You should be able to demonstrate that you understand: 1) how to ask a research question of bioarchaeological data; 2) what tools you will need to assess that question; and 3) why this question is important to anthropology.

You are an anthropology major, and for your senior thesis you are planning a research project based on the paper you submitted for your Bioarchaeology class. To fund your travel and analysis, you apply for a grant from the Wenner-Gren Foundation (<http://www.wennergren.org>). If your proposal for the Undergraduate Thesis Research Award¹ is successful, Wenner-Gren will give you up to \$10,000. As with all grant proposals, you are required to follow the guidelines and submit your proposal in a timely manner – on or before May 9.

- *Proposal Format:* The main components of the application are a **timeline**, a **budget**, and a **research proposal** that addresses the four questions listed in the grant packet. Your research can only take one year to complete. In this time, you need to go into the field to do your data collection, run bone chemistry samples if necessary, and write your thesis. Your proposal should consist of: about 4 (no more than 6) typed, double-spaced pages for the research proposal and up to 1 page each for your proposed timeline, your requested budget, and your bibliography. Your proposal should be written for a general anthropological audience. You cannot assume that it will be read by a bioarchaeologist, so make all of your explanations clear and your reasoning explicit. See the Guidelines for further information.
- *Proposal Topic:* You have already done a significant amount of research into a specific disease and/or a specific region of the world for your term paper in this course. I will not provide you with contextual information for this project. You should draw your research question from your paper research. Your research question (and thus your proposal) should focus on one of the following major topics in bioarchaeology: **population interaction**, **disease**, **trauma**, or **diet**. You were asked in your paper topic to discuss current research and think about future research that can be done. Current research will be the basis for your background section, and your thoughts about future research should form the basis of the proposed research and analysis.

This handout includes the guidelines for the Wenner-Gren proposal format, including a list of the average cost of items that you might want to budget for in your analysis. Except for the bone chemistry costs, only *maximum* allowable costs are listed here. In order to accomplish your research within the budget, you will have to do some investigation into the cost of items like travel and supplies.

¹ OK, so this award doesn't really exist. Wenner-Gren, however, is real and does fund a lot of graduate and post-doctoral research in all four fields of anthropology.



Undergraduate Thesis Research Grant Instructions

I. Proposal Guidelines (4-6 pages)

- A. The following sections are required for the proposal. The student should note in the text of the proposal which question is being addressed.
- B. Four questions need to be addressed in the proposal using the following headings. Subheadings guide the student in addressing the questions but do not need to be specifically noted in the text. Each question should be addressed in about 1 page.
 1. *What is your research question or objective?*
 - a. thesis statement
 - b. introduction to the problem, including questions you will ask
 2. *What background research have you done?*
 - a. context of the research
 - b. other researchers' findings (may include charts, tables, graphs if needed)
 3. *What further evidence will you need to collect?*
 - a. explain what data you will generate
 - b. explain where these data will come from (e.g., sampling strategies – will you look at everyone, just women, only women and kids, etc.)
 - c. explain why these data will help answer your research question
 4. *How does this proposed study contribute to anthropological knowledge?*
 - a. why would other anthropologists care about this research?
 - b. why would the general public care?

II. Timeline Guidelines (up to 1 page)

- A. The research project has to be carried out within one (1) year.
- B. The student will submit a timeline for research, including the following:
 1. Time and dates in the field.
 2. Time and dates for data entry and analysis.
 3. Time and dates for interpretation and writing.

III. Budget Guidelines (up to 1 page)

- A. Funding will be available to the student up to an amount of \$10,000.
- B. Awarded money has to be used by the conclusion of the student's research.
- C. Wenner-Gren will allow for the following expenses (*see following page for price list*):
 1. Travel costs for field research, including airfare and ground transportation
 2. Accommodations while in the field
 3. A per diem allowance of \$15

4. Chemical analyses, including but not limited to:
 - a. DNA
 - b. Carbon-14
 - c. trace element
 - d. stable isotope
 5. Electronic equipment while in the field, including but not limited to:
 - a. laptop computer
 - b. digital camera
 - c. USB/jump drive
 - d. computer software
 6. Recording material, including but not limited to:
 - a. paper
 - b. pens
 - c. boxes
 - d. plastic or paper bags
 - e. xeroxing
 7. Reference material, including but not limited to:
 - a. textbooks and manuals
 - b. casts or other reproductions
 8. Outside analysis costs, including but not limited to:
 - a. analysis of material remains or artifacts
 - b. analysis of biological material (plant, animal, or human remains)
 - c. translation of reports, journals, or other printed matter
- D. Wenner-Gren **will not** allow for the following expenses:
1. alcoholic beverages
 2. entertainment expenses, including but not limited to
 - a. movies, plays, concerts, operas, etc.
 - b. cover charges
 - c. any other purchased entertainment (e.g., DVDs, CDs, novels)
 3. pleasure travel or vacation, including expenses incurred on vacation
 4. transportation, accommodation, or per diem for individuals other than student
 5. childcare
 6. health insurance
 7. salary for the student
 8. tuition or fees at student's undergraduate institution

IV. Bibliography Guidelines (up to 1 page)

A. All cited references in the proposal will be included in a bibliography and submitted.

B. Style Guide

1. **Single-author book:** Smith, A. (2003). *Working in America*. New York: Plenum Publishers.
2. **Chapter in edited volume:** Smith, A. (2003). "Working in America," in *Americans Work Hard*, edited by P. Jones, pp. 1-23. New York: Plenum Publishers.
3. **Article:** Smith, A. (2003). "Working in America." *International Journal of Working People* 15(3):34-45.

Wenner-Gren Foundation

Undergraduate Thesis Research Grant

Budget Item	Maximum Price
1. Airfare	\$5,000 round-trip
2. Accommodations	\$5,000
3. Food, toiletries, etc.	\$15 per day
4. Chemical analyses	
a. aDNA or mtDNA	\$350 per sample
b. Carbon-14	\$650 per sample
c. trace element	\$75 per sample
d. stable isotope	
i. Carbon and Nitrogen	\$12 per sample
ii. Strontium	\$75 per sample
iii. Oxygen	\$10 per sample
5. Electronic equipment	
a. laptop	\$3,000
b. digital camera	\$1,000
c. USB/jump drive	\$50
d. computer software (if justified)	\$500
6. Recording material - student's discretion, but must be justified	-----
7. Reference material - student's discretion, but must be justified	-----
8. Outside analysis costs	
a. artifacts (ceramics, lithics, etc.)	\$1,000
b. ecofacts (bones, pollen, etc.)	\$1,000
c. translation (of documents, field reports, etc.)	\$1,000