

ENG 106  
Serializing Fiction  
Dr. Adam Abraham  
Spring 2024 (Block 6)

## PROSPECTUS

First Draft DUE: Monday 4 March  
Bring HARD COPY to class

Final Draft DUE: Wednesday 6 March by 4:30 pm  
Email to [aabraham@cornellcollege.edu](mailto:aabraham@cornellcollege.edu)  
Submit as an attachment in Microsoft Word or pdf form  
In the subject line write "PROSPECTUS"

For the final assignment of the block, each student will write a prospectus on a serialized narrative television show. A prospect means a future outlook.

In this case, you will create a proposal for a longer research essay that you could eventually write. It is like pitching a story to a magazine, proposing a topic for an academic conference, or requesting a grant from a funding agency: "Here is what I have done so far. Here is what I hope to accomplish."

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The First Draft will include two elements:

### I. ONE-SENTENCE ARGUMENT

Make an argument about what your selected TV show is doing. How does it work? What does it accomplish? What does it mean? Write a single sentence that encapsulates your view.



## II. FULL ARGUMENT

Write one, two, or three paragraphs to introduce your TV show and your argument to the reader. Offer some background on the show that you selected. Mention the title of the series and the original network and the year(s) when it first aired. Give a brief summary of the show's content (a sentence or two at the most). By the end of the first paragraph, state your argument in one sentence (copied from Part I above). In the full argument, you get to stake your claim. How does the narrative work? How does the show use televisual language (acting, lighting, production design, editing, sound, music) to accomplish its goals? What are you saying? Aim for 500 to 1,000 words.

BRING A HARD COPY OF THE FIRST DRAFT TO CLASS ON MONDAY.

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Each Final Draft will have four parts, in this order:

### I. FULL ARGUMENT

Rewrite your full argument based on the comments that you received during the peer review. Include any other corrections that you want to make. Be sure that your one-sentence argument appears in your first paragraph.

### II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Incorporate the paragraphs from your literature review. Make all the corrections and adjustments recommended by the instructor. Rewrite or revise as needed. You will analyze a minimum of three sources. Four or five or more sources may be appropriate. One source should be a peer-reviewed journal article; one should be an article from a newspaper or magazine (print or online); and the third can be another print or electronic source. Write one paragraph (roughly 200 to 300 words) on each source. See the literature review assignment page (available at [adamabraham.info](http://adamabraham.info)) for more detail.

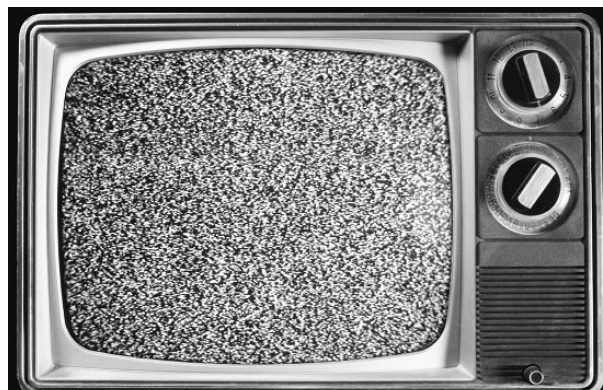
### III. CONCLUSION

Evaluate and synthesize your sources. Discuss areas of consensus and areas of disagreement. What do they neglect to say? What areas of future research might still be available? Do not simply repeat what you have written in the literature review. Now you are making comparisons. Further, indicate where you fit into the field of knowledge that you have discovered so far. What might your contribution be? Indicate some possible areas of future research—primary, secondary, archival, personal interviews. If you were to write this essay for real, what would your next steps be? It's a prospectus: you are looking forward. Generate excitement in the reader for what comes next. Aim for one or two paragraphs (roughly 300 to 500 words total).

### IV. WORKS CITED

Conclude your prospectus with a list of Works Cited. Start a new page and type the words "Works Cited" at the center and top of that page. List your sources alphabetically and in MLA style, as discussed in class. Follow the MLA rules on capitalization for all titles of works. If you need further guidance, consult the *MLA Handbook* or ask the instructor. Make sure you format the Works Cited in the same manner as the rest of the prospectus (font size and style, double spacing, black ink, etc.)

In your Final Draft, all four elements should be combined into a single document. Do not submit more than one document.



## REQUIREMENTS

- Use a normal, 12-point font, with serifs, such as Times or Times New Roman.
- Double-space EVERY LINE. Double-space is not single-space or space-and-one-half.
- Write in multiple paragraphs. Indent each new paragraph. Do not skip lines.
- Follow the conventions of edited American English unless there is a good reason not to. When in doubt, consult *The Chicago Manual of Style*.
- Attend a peer-review session on Monday 4 March. Bring one printed hard copy of the First Draft. Any student who misses this class or who shows up without a printed hard copy will lose 10 percent of the available points.
- In the upper-left corner of the first page, include the following information:

Your Name

ENG 106

Date

Prospectus

- One line below that, write a TITLE for your prospectus, centered, using mixed case (Capitals and lowercase). Do not italicize, underline, or use bold print.

## GRADING

- The Final Draft is worth 30 points, which is 30 percent of your final grade.
  - The argument is worth 10 points.
  - The lit review and the Works Cited together are worth 10 points.
  - The conclusion is worth 10 points.
- Any prospectus that is submitted late (even one minute late) will lose 10 percent.
- According to the syllabus, any work submitted after 6 March will receive a score of zero. No excuses or exceptions.
- If you want more guidance, feel free to discuss in class or set an appointment with the instructor.