

WRS 106
First-Year Writing II
Dr. Adam Abraham
Spring 2025

PROPOSAL

DUE: Friday 28 March by 4:30 pm
Email to axa4376@miami.edu
Submit as an attachment in Microsoft Word or pdf form
In the subject line write “PROPOSAL”

In preparation for the final essay of the semester, each student will select and research one serialized narrative television show. This will be a show that works in short arcs (episode-length) and long arcs (over the length of a season or series). DO NOT choose a news program, sports, reality TV, or a game show. The series must be a narrative.

The first step is to write a proposal—roughly one paragraph. Mention the TV show by title (in italics), the years (not the dates) in which it aired, and the original network. Offer a one- or two-sentence summary of the show’s content.

Then propose an argument about what you think you may learn or write about this TV show. What is the show about? What is it really about? This argument is your thesis, like a hypothesis in the natural sciences. If you think that your thesis may be wrong, then you are on the right track. If there is no possible way that your thesis could be wrong, then it is NOT a thesis. That is the test.

In the next few days, consider which TV show you may want to research. You should watch/re-watch some episodes to gather ideas. Then we will hold a brainstorm session to help you develop an argument, and the instructor will give examples. Assume that your thesis will change over the next few weeks. You may also decide to write about a different show. That’s ok.

If you follow the instructions here, you will earn 10 out of 10 points on the proposal. If you want more guidance, feel free to visit during office hours or set an appointment.

SERIALIZED NARRATIVE SHOWS

From the US and the UK, 1978 to the present. These are some representative shows that might work for the assignment. Based on *Birth of the Binge*, by Dennis Broe (2019).

Dallas

Knots Landing

Dynasty

Hill Street Blues

St. Elsewhere

Moonlighting

Twin Peaks

The X-Files

Buffy the Vampire Slayer

Oz

The Sopranos

Curb Your Enthusiasm

Rome

The Office (BBC)

Six Feet Under

24

The Wire

Firefly

The Shield

Deadwood

Lost

Desperate Housewives

Veronica Mars

Battlestar Galactica

The Office (NBC)

Weeds

Friday Night Lights

Mad Men

Burn Notice

Breaking Bad

Fringe

Dollhouse

Justified

The Walking Dead

Homeland

Downton Abbey

Game of Thrones

Orange Is the New Black

Peaky Blinders

House of Cards

The Americans

Silicon Valley

Gotham

Mr. Robot

Better Call Saul

Jessica Jones

Goliath

Westworld

Stranger Things

The Crown

Succession

The White Lotus

House of the Dragon

Wednesday