

Junior Honors  
Fall, 2003  
Beck  
Assignment 2

This is a critical assignment

In no more than 1 page (and not much less than one page), use the template in Booth (roughly p. 56) to sketch out your research topic. You should do as much as you can in the confines of one page to convince the reader (me) that you have an interesting and doable thesis. If possible, you should also show that there is a puzzle which your thesis will contribute to understanding.

You should be thinking about your topic NOW. Today we will begin talking about topics, and I expect that everyone can contribute their ideas to this discussion. Some of you will know exactly what you want to do (perhaps rightly, perhaps not) whereas others will only have a vague idea. But I want you all to be ready to discuss what you plan to do in terms of the chapters in Booth.

On Monday we will discuss the puzzle solving approach. You should look at all five chapters in Grofman (plus the introduction), but please take the one chapter that interests you the most and read it more carefully. Be prepared to discuss the puzzle in that chapter. Also be prepared to discuss a puzzle you are interested in and how it relates to your thesis.

Then on Wednesday and the following Monday we will go around the table discussing the topics of each student. I will assign each of you to either Wednesday or Monday (grouping students by common interest). The Wednesday group must post a draft of the one page assignment (or the completed assignment) to our forum no later than noon of the preceding Tuesday; the Monday group must post the same thing no later than noon of the preceding Friday.

Each student will make a three minute presentation of their topic (no more, but not much less than 3 minutes). We have about 7 minutes per student, so there is time for brief discussion.

As you change your topic, you should modify your one page paper. Obviously you should do this only for major changes in topic. But when you do make a major change, give me a new one page paper (which I will not grade). Thus I can stay current on your interests.

The one page paper is not graded, but I may ask people to rewrite those needing rewriting.