

# Master's Project Proposal Worksheet

## 1. **Choosing a Subject and Supervisor: *Where have your studies led you?***

- What expertise could you bring to bear on a project? What kind of project would be possible given your existing knowledge base, skills, experiences and faculty connections?
- Of the courses you have taken and the papers you have written, which have been most meaningful or enjoyable for you?
- Which teachers have you most enjoyed or benefited from working with, and where do their fields of interest coincide with yours?

## 2. **Exploring Methods: *What sort of master's project would you like to do?***

- A traditional thesis (extended research paper) in which you analyze something in light of the scholarly critical conversation?
- A policy paper in which you analyze something in order to make policy recommendations?
- A primary research project in which you contribute original data (e.g. interviews, archival research) to the established understanding of a subject?
- An applied research (practical) project in which you create a new thing or model (e.g., curriculum, website, organization, app) based on your analysis of existing research?
- An extended personal essay in which you make connections between your own experiences and larger social, cultural or philosophical issues or theories?
- A creative project (e.g., mount a photographic exhibit, write a series of short stories)? [requires a separate analytical essay]
- Some combination of the above?

## 3. **Focusing on a Central Question or Issue: *What do you want to explore?***

- What urgent issues or concerns does your subject raise for you? Are there any particular questions or problems within these issues that you would like to focus on? Which of these are most intriguing, interesting and academically worthy of exploration – and why should I care?
  - Can you focus your concerns on one central question or problem, as it relates to particular situations and circumstances?

*or*

- How can these issues or concerns be explored creatively? What light can artistic processes and perspectives shed on them?