**Honors Experiential Learning Project Proposal Form**

Complete and submit this proposal in your e-portfolio (for those with iWebfolio portfolios) or email to honors@uc.edu (if you do not have an e-portfolio in iWebfolio).

**Basic Information**
Full Name: Batsheva Ruth Serota

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College: McMicken College of Arts & Sciences

Major: Double Major- Psychology & Biology; Pre- Med; English Minor

Title of Project: Novel Project

Expected Project Start Date: June 11, 2011

Expected Project End Date: September 21, 2011

**Project Information**

1. **Provide a brief overview/abstract of your proposed honors experiential learning project.**

I will research, write, and edit a 50,000+ word novel in only one summer.

1. **Clearly state how each of the following elements will be exhibited in your work (refer to the first two pages of this document with the full description of what is expected in each of these areas).**
2. Substantial Content and Quality within Creative Arts Theme

In November 2010, I participated in NaNoWriMo (National Novel Writing Month), in which I wrote a 50,000+ word novel in one month. It was an interesting and fulfilling experience, but I want to write another, spending more time editing and perfecting my work. Although it takes years to perfect a piece of writing as extensive as a novel, I am determined to challenge myself by only having a summer at my disposal to write. I have attempted to write complete novels before, but even as the word counts rose, I always felt that I have always come up short. I am hoping this new project will give me more time to fully develop my ideas in order to improve my writing. The time parameters will add a new dimension to the project, motivating me to see what I can come up with in such a short amount of time. I will spend time brainstorming an idea regarding characters and places that I am unfamiliar with, putting me outside my comfort zone so that I will be forced to think outside the box. By writing about a culture that is different from my own, research will provide me with a platform for a captivating novel as well as an overall enriching experience. Although I don’t know what culture I will be writing about, I am looking forward to delving into the unfamiliar and learning about the behaviors and traditions of people I know nothing about. I am planning on putting one of my characters in a situation where she finds herself in a foreign place outside of her comfort zone, and her journey as she learns about the new culture she is experiencing will be parallel with mine. This point of view will allow me to shed a new light and provide a new perspective on a culture and how it reacts with outsiders, creating a dynamic character that grows and learns as I do when I write.

1. Connection to Academic Goals and Theories

As an English minor, undertaking the task of writing a complete novel will improve my writing and help me develop my writing style as I write and edit. Not only that, but this project will also provide me with a deeper understanding of how to conduct research for a novel as well as produce a historically and culturally accurate work. Once I complete the brainstorming process, I will carry out research online as well as in the library, checking out relevant books and reading articles that pertain to the subject matter that I will base my novel on. Although I do not know what exact research materials I will be using, I am planning on using books and articles that explain the traditions and viewpoints of the culture I will be writing about as well as works that dive into the history of its people. Not only does this project pertain to my English minor, but it will help me develop the researching skills I need as a Psychology major. Completing a perfected novel has always been a personal goal of mine, as well, and I hope to produce a work that I will be proud of.

1. Initiative, Independence and Creativity

I will independently research, write, and edit my novel. My project advisor will help me with any problems that may arise as I complete my project, such as brainstorming with me if I have writer’s block and offering constructive criticism about my ideas and my writing. I will turn to my advisor for support and feedback for my finished product, but the majority of the project will be done independently by me, as all of the writing will be my original work.

1. Reflection & Dissemination

I will document my ideas as I brainstorm for this novel, as well as reflect upon my research as I conduct it, such as describing the books I am reading and how they pertain to my overall work. I also plan to post excerpts from my novel to online Honors Program pages.

1. Advisor (list the person’s name, title, and contact information)

Susan Marrs, Director of College Counseling and Assistant Head of School at Seven Hills, susan.marrs@7hills.org

1. Budget (if applicable)

Ink, paper, & binding: $100