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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Below average**  **1** | **Average**  **2** | **Above average**  **3** | **Excellent**  **4** |
| **Merit** | Statement of purpose identifies no clear aim; project overview is underdeveloped; project does not identify relevant critical conversations and/or theories | Statement of purpose identifies an aim; project overview is adequately developed; project identifies relevant critical conversations and/or theories | Statement of purpose identifies a well-defined aim; project overview is well developed; project is well defined in relation to critical conversations and/or theories | Statement of purpose identifies an original, well-defined aim; project overview is fully developed; project reshapes critical conversations and/or theories |
| **Contribution to the humanities** | Narrative does not identify a clear impact on any discipline in the humanities; proposed methods are purely quantitative | Narrative identifies a limited impact on one humanities discipline; proposed methods emphasize quantitative over qualitative analysis | Narrative identifies a major impact on one or more humanities disciplines; proposed methods are qualitative or blend qualitative analysis with quantitative analysis | Narrative identifies a field-changing impact on one or more humanities disciplines; proposed methods are primarily qualitative or blend qualitative and qualitative analysis in a sophisticated manner |
| **Potential for recognition** | Proposed outcome is negligible (e.g., a conference paper) | Proposed outcome is solid (e.g., an article) | Proposed outcome is robust (e.g., two articles) | Proposed outcome is ambitious (e.g., a monograph, a linked series of articles) |
| **References** | Letters are weak and offer little to no evidence of the candidate’s accomplishments | Letters are solid and include some evidence of the candidate’s accomplishments | Letters are strong and offer specific examples of the candidate’s accomplishments | Letters are exceptionally strong and offer multiple, specific examples of the candidate’s accomplishments |
| **Feasibility of completion** | None or very little of the proposed work can be completed in the grant period | Some of the proposed work can be completed in the grant period | Most of the proposed work can be completed in the grant period | All of the proposed work can be completed in the grant period |