

### **Project proposal**

Due: March 14, 2011, 4PM

(hard copy, to Bergen mailbox in Cog Sci Dept in CSB)

#### **General information**

Your project proposal should

- Address some broadly interesting topic in language comprehension
- Ask a question about that topic to which (as far as you can tell from looking at the literature) the answer is currently unknown
- Propose to answer the question using an appropriate, systematic, empirical approach (experimentation or others) that allows for hypothesis testing.
- Propose a way to analyze the empirical results from that method.

Format

- Length: About 1000 words.
- You can use any presentational format you like, as long as it has clearly delineated sections for the introduction, method, results, and discussion.
- It should be written up as though it were to be submitted to a specialized journal. I.e.:
  - It should address a general audience (don't assume people know what you know or care about what you care about).
  - It should be clear, concise, and thoroughly copy-edited.

#### **Specifics**

You can work on a question related to the readings or class discussions, including ideas you've developed in your homework. You should include all the following in your proposal.

Introduction (similar to HW4)

- The topic, why it's interesting, and the particular aspect of that topic that you're addressing
- The current state of knowledge about this aspect of this topic, including summary of results from relevant previous work
- How you're going to address it (very briefly, in like a sentence or two)
- What you expect the results will be—your hypothesis (also very briefly)

Method (similar to the requirements for HW5)

- Details of the empirical method you plan to use—in as much detail as in HW5.

Results (similar to HW6)

- What statistical tests will be applied to the data
- What you predict the results will be, if your hypothesis is right

Discussion

- How the results you expect would confirm or reject your hypothesis
- What they would say about the research question you started with and the general topic