

Book Discussions: Supplemental Grant Guidelines

These guidelines for book discussions are a supplement to the Action Grant and Humanities For All Grant guidelines. In preparing the grant application, follow the instructions for an Action or Humanities For All Grant. Attach a Word or PDF document with answers to these questions at the end of the online application.

Application to support a book discussion series can be submitted as an Action Grant or Humanities for All Grant.

- If the program will occur at a single site, request an Action Grant (up to \$3,500)
- If the program is to be conducted at multiple sites, or is part of a larger series of activities including lectures, exhibits, or other events, request a Humanities for All Grant (up to \$10,000)

Include in Your Grant Application:

The following items must be addressed in the application supplement:

1. A brief description of the central theme and explanation of why it was chosen.
2. A brief description of the titles selected. Include an explanation as to why each book was selected and how each book serves to generate discussion of the theme.
3. Sample discussion questions (2-3 questions per book).
4. A schedule of events that includes dates of book discussions, book titles, and name of the scholar that will serve as discussion leader. Intervals of at least two weeks should be allowed between discussions to ensure participants have time to read the books.
5. Plans for creating a brochure or online guide that will offer an examination of the theme and summarizes each title.
6. If books are to be purchased with grant funds, discuss plans for the books after the project.

Additional documents can be uploaded to the ATTACHMENTS section of the online application.

Recommendations for Selecting Book Titles

- A series should include titles that offer multiple perspectives on a central theme. A series usually includes three to four titles.
- Novels are the most popular for book discussions.
- Books should vary in complexity. Participation tends to decline if every book is extremely challenging or extremely easy.

Purchasing Books

Grant funds can be used to purchase up to 40 books. Paperbacks are preferred. Additional copies are often reserved through interlibrary loan or purchased by the applicant as part of cost share.

For More Information

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