

Book Discussions: Supplemental Grant Guidelines

Book discussions bring people together to explore themes and spark conversations. When designing a book discussion series and applying for an HK grant, a few extra considerations go a long way.

Action Grant or a 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 \$15,000)

Selecting Book Titles

- A series usually includes three to four titles that offer multiple perspectives on a central theme.
- 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.

Include in Your Grant Application:

The following items must be addressed in your grant application:

1. **What unique story will you explore with the project?** Provide a brief description of the central theme and explanation of why it was chosen.
2. **Public Events.** 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.)

Grant Application: Additional Questions

In preparing the grant application, the following questions will appear when you click “Book Discussion” in the Supplemental Questions:

List all book titles and provide a brief description of each. Include an explanation as to why each book was selected and how each book serves to generate discussion of the theme.

Provide sample discussion questions (2–3 questions per book).

Provide plans for creating a brochure or online guide that will offer an examination of the theme and summarizes each title.

If books are to be purchased with grant funds, discuss plans for the books after the project.

For More Information

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