

Writing a Successful AAR Conference Proposal

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Essential elements of a proposal include:

- 1) Novelty of topic**
- 2) Familiarity with secondary literature**
- 3) An argument**
- 4) Manageability of the project**
- 5) Demonstration of preparation for the project**

- 1) Novelty:
Needs to ask a new question, present a topic with a new framing. How does the topic being considered differ from existing literature?
- 2) Familiarity with Secondary Literature
That is, literature within Islamic Studies as well as outside it. Connect your topic to some larger conceptual themes in broader theoretical literature to show stakes of your paper/argument.
- 3) An Argument
What is the point of the paper? What does it suggest or propose as a way to look at this topic?
- 4) Manageability of the project
Can it be demonstrated and delivered within 15-20 minutes?
- 5) Preparation
Showing familiarity with your own evidence and work conducted on the project so far