

SECTION REVISION EXERCISE

Section Title	Section Goal	How Well Does It Achieve Its Goals?	How Important Is This Goal?	Is the Present Version Justified in Terms of Space Used?	Action?
Abstract (1 paragraph)	To quickly sum up what the project is about	I'm happy with it.	Very important. If the reader can't identify the goals of the project quickly, they'll discard it and move on.	At seven lines, it's pretty space-efficient.	None.
Introduction (1 page)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) To set out Lijphart's theory (2) To show that, in Lebanon at least, it doesn't work (3) To point to the real understanding of the relationship of identity and violence 	Pretty well. It comes across as a little dry, though.	You'd think pointing out "Dumbfuck A's" approach would be more important, as that grounds the work in the literature. But I can't say I'm that attached to this part of the piece. I feel like I should be, but I can't define why I'm not yet.	I've got to say I wish it were shorter.	I have the bit where Lijphart specifically links consociationalism to Lebanon. I like it because it is a direct link to the project. But perhaps I should let go of it. That would save about an inch.
I. Causal Argument Intro (1/2 page)	Lay out the plan of attack for this part of the proposal	I think it does achieve them.	At this point, I have to wonder if I haven't distilled the theory down far enough again. I'm wondering if I'm still including too much about <i>why</i> the theory works, rather than just laying out the theory in a quick and dirty way.	<p>It's a bit of a run on paragraph. If I simplify the argument, the intro will shrink.</p> <p>I think my problem may be that I keep writing a theory chapter instead of a proposal. Focus less on <i>why it works</i> and just show <i>how it works</i>.</p>	Look at the argument and figure out how to reduce it. Having done this, rewrite the plan of attack. With a shorter argument, the plan of attack will shrink.
A. Narrative, Meaning and Bias in Social Action (1.25 pages)	To provide the background information needed to explain why narrative and rhetoric are so important for predicting outcomes. This is very important because interest-based frameworks for understanding social action tend to dismiss rhetoric as a causal variable, viewing it as so much window decoration.	I think it achieves its goals.	I'm beginning to think not very. This should go in the theory chapter. Once people know <i>that it works</i> , they will become interested in <i>why it works</i> .	No. It bores the reader senselessly.	Keep the text for the theory chapter. Cut it from the proposal

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B. The Recognition Narrative of the State (1 page)	To show how the state's recognition narrative creates a context that shapes political action under ordinary circumstances.	I think it achieves its goals.	I'm beginning to think not very. This should go in the theory chapter. Once people know <i>that it works</i> , they will become interested in <i>why it works</i> .	No. It bores the reader senselessly.	Keep the text for the theory chapter. Cut it from the proposal
C. The Institutional Structure of Civil War (2 pages)	To show that (1) because civil war is not a Hobbesian anarchy, rhetoric matters and (2) that rhetoric employed during previous order to some extent shapes expectations during a civil war	It achieves its goals	Very. This is the minimum explanation of why the hypotheses might prove valid.	Still too long, still too much theory.	Needs to be reduced to a paragraph.
D. The Impact of Framing on the Psychology of Violence in Civil War (1.5 pages)	To lay out the hypotheses the dissertation will test	It does.	Again, critical. This part is the whole point of the piece.	.Not as badly overblown as the rest of the causal argument. Still needs to be reduced.	Reduce to a page. Adding the material from the other parts of the causal argument that we're planning on keeping, the new causal argument should be no more than 2.5 pages long.
II. Cases and Method (1.75 pages)	To defend the choice of cases and lay out and defend the method.	It's underdeveloped shit.	Grantees won't have any confidence in me if this doesn't improve. It's pretty fuckin' important.	This needs much more development.	Sell the cases more and make a really good explanation of how the content analysis will work and
III. Research Schedule (0.25 page)	To show I have some grasp on how long this will take	It does	They love this stuff. I need something and this is short.	Yes.	The steps have to change now that you're not going to Tel Aviv on their dime.
IV. Budget (0.25 page)	To show I have some grasp of how much this will cost	It does	They love this stuff. I need something and this is short.	Yes.	The budget has to change now that you're not going to Tel Aviv on their dime.
V. Theoretical and Practical Value of the Proposed Theory (0.75 pages)	Well, I was always a big believer in external validity. Here it is.	It does.	Moderately	Yes.	This is probably the only part I don't have to fix.