**The Evergreen State College**

**Graduate Program on the Environment**

### e:\zz\graph2\tesclog0.wpgMini Thesis Prospectus

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| **Name** |  | **ID Number** |  |
| **Mailing Address** |  |
|  |  |
| **Telephone** | **( )** |
| **E-mail** |  |

**STUDENT AGREEMENT:**

**SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ DATE\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**FACULTY READER APPROVAL:**

**SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ DATE\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**MES DIRECTOR APPROVAL:**

**SIGNATURE:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ DATE\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

1. Working Title of Thesis. (You are not locked into this title; its purpose is to help you identify the main point or topic of your thesis at an early stage.)
2. In 250 words or less, summarize the key background information needed to understand your research problem and question.
3. State your research question.
4. Situate your research problem within the relevant literature. (What is the theoretical and/or practical framework of your research problem?)
5. Explain the significance of this research problem. (Why is this research important? What are the potential contributions of your work? How might your work advance scholarship?)
6. Summarize your study design. (You might discuss selection of case studies, sampling methods, experimental design, and/or specific hypotheses you will test. You should also address any specialized knowledge or skills that are necessary to complete the research. If applicable, identify the key variables in your study. What is their relationship to each other? For example, which variables are you considering as independent (explanatory) and dependent (response) variable? )
7. Describe the data that will be the foundation of your thesis. (Will you use existing data in publications or gather new data?) In addition, describe the process of acquiring or gathering data. (If you are planning to use existing data, explain the specific source, contact information, arrangement with collaborating agencies, and expectations about use of data and final products of your research. If you are planning to gather new data, describe specific methods, time, place, and equipment that will be required.)
8. Summarize your methods of data analysis. You might also discuss specific techniques that you will use to understand the relationships between variables (e.g., interview coding, cost-benefit analysis, statistical analysis, spatial analysis) and the steps and tools (e.g., lab equipment, software) that you will take to complete this analysis.