



Wisconsin Historical Society
P R E S S

**Wisconsin Historical Society Press
Book Proposal Form
Books for Young Readers**

Please submit proposals by email to whspress@wisconsinhistory.org

Date:

Author(s) Contact Information

Name:

Mailing Address:

Phone:

Email:

About Your Book Project

Working title (Please provide your tentative title and subtitle. You may also include alternative titles):

Estimated word count in final manuscript:

Note: For picture books, we require a full draft manuscript be submitted at the proposal stage; for longer books please see the sample text requirements at the end of this document.

Percentage of manuscript now complete:

Expected manuscript completion date:

Format (Indicate whether you envision this as a picture book, graphic nonfiction, biography, memoir, narrative nonfiction, expository chapter book centered on a topic or theme, collection, how-to, activity book, or a hybrid. We welcome books in hybrid and/or innovative formats, but if your book does not fit within one of the formats listed above, please provide a brief description.

Please note that we do not publish historical fiction and therefore will not consider proposals for that genre.)

Audience / Readership: What is the target age and/or grade range for this book?

The Press publishes a small number of new titles a year, and an even smaller number of those are for young readers. What case can you make for the importance of this book? Why is its subject essential for young people today to know about? What makes your story particularly compelling to today's young readers?

Illustrations and Images:

- **Should your book be fully illustrated? If so, why? (If you are an author, you do not need to secure an illustrator for your project. If you do have an illustrator in mind, please make a note of that but understand that the Press reserves the right to hire an illustrator of our choice. If you are an author who will plans to also provide illustrations, please indicate that.)**
- **Will your book include photos, charts, maps, or other types of images? If so, please estimate the number, type, format, sources, permissions considerations, likely fees, etc.:**

“The Hook” (the book’s unique selling points, in 20 words or fewer):

One-paragraph summary (100–200 words):

Extended description (roughly one to two pages):

Complete Table of Contents with a brief synopsis of each chapter (if you are proposing a picture book or graphic nonfiction, you may skip this section):

Back matter: List all planned back matter that will provide additional context and/or resources to support the use of your book in classrooms. (For example: glossary, author note, bibliography, maps, “For Further Reading” lists, etc.)

Comparable and competing titles: List existing books on this topic or books on a similar topic, in a similar format, and for the same age group as yours. Include title, author, publisher, and year of publication. How is your book unique compared to similar titles? (Be sure to review the Press’ recently published titles for young readers, available on our website.)

About the Author(s)

Provide a short author bio as you imagine it appearing on the cover/jacket (50–100 words):

Relevant credentials: Include your current title and affiliation, educational background, previous books and/or publications, and other relevant experience. Why are you the right person to tell this story? Do you have experience writing for the age level(s) you are proposing as the audience for this book?

Research and Writing Approach

What research tactics have you used? (for example: *conducted research in the WHS archives or other archives or libraries, conducted interviews (include names and relevance to project), reviewed journals to jog memory, read letters in family collection, etc.*) Optionally, you may also include a bibliography. If applicable, include plans for research yet to be completed.

Writing approach: How would you describe your voice or point of view in this work?

Expert readers: Who have you consulted about your manuscript? List readers who have already reviewed the manuscript and what section(s) they reviewed. Is further review by experts or other readers necessary? If so, what material would benefit from review, and whom do you feel is qualified to review the work (you may include names of specific individuals or types of reviewers, such as “an expert on Wisconsin shipwrecks history”). Are there particular communities or people referenced in your work who should be consulted?

Why the WHS Press?

Based on your knowledge of our mission, our audiences, and our other authors and titles, why is this book a good fit for the Wisconsin Historical Society Press?

Does your project have any connection to Wisconsin Historical Society sites, collections, museum exhibits, programs, etc.? If so, please list them.

Underwriting and/or Partnership Potential

List any potential underwriters—individuals, businesses, trade associations, etc.—whom you believe might be willing to underwrite in part or in full your book’s costs. (Note: financial support is not required for publication, and answering "N/A" will not negatively affect the consideration of your proposal. Before proceeding, we will discuss with you any potential underwriters and how best to approach them.)

List any potential partners who might be interested in collaborating with the WHS Press on promoting and marketing the book or by making a prepublication purchase of copies.

Sample Text

If you are proposing a picture book, we require the full manuscript at the proposal stage. If you are proposing a longer book, include one to three chapters representative of the planned work. Do not send a full manuscript of a longer book unless specifically requested.

You may paste the sample below or add it as an attachment to your submission. The sample should illustrate your voice and writing style. It should also include examples of all the elements you plan to include (sidebars, captions, footnotes, citations, recipes, etc.). If you have photos or illustrations that you would like to be considered along with your proposal, please submit samples as separate attachments.