**1. Who will your research project benefit?** (Target Audience):

**i.e.** 100 Latino males, ages 12-25 from East L.A

**2. What is the issue your research aims to solve?** (Problem)

**i.e.** High mortality rate due to lack of positive activities available during the high peak crime hours of 11:00 pm – 2:00 am Fri & Sat

**3. What authority says it’s a problem?** (Strong Theory)

**i.e.** The Department of Justice; LAPD Gang Division; The US Census

**4. How does your research project solve the problem?** (Solution)

**i.e.** By providing a highly gang affiliated community with a Midnight Madness Art Program. A neutral “Safe zone” where male youth learn how to paint, play an instrument, take a photography class, write poetry/perform spoken word, sing, take hip hop dance, or act. Giving them a safe haven to go, learn new skills, and explore career pathways

**5. What are your project goals?** (What Are You Going to Do?)

**i.e.** a) To reduce the mortality rate in Latino males, ages 12-25 in East L.A., CA by 20%

b) To increase the number of Latino males in East L.A. who are exposed to art and find a new passion or learn a new skill

c) To increase the number of Latino males in East LA who are gainfully employed by 10%

**6. What are your project objectives?** (How will you accomplish those goals?)

**i.e.** a) By providing at risk Latino males with a safe place to go between the hours of 11p-2a

b) By offering Latino males in East LA a free mixed-media art program

c) By teaching Latino males marketable skills then placing them in decent wage positions in performing arts centers, galleries, studios, businesses, etc.

7. **What makes this project Innovative?** (The “So What?” Factor):

**i.e** The program will be administered at peak hours when most of the Latino homicides take place. The program will be open to all gang affiliated youth, hosted in a neutral “Safe Zone.” The Program will be facilitated by well renowned artists. The classes will all come with certifications. And, the program is partnering with LA WorkSource to place youth in jobs upon completion of their programs. This is a pilot program, the goal is to duplicate it in similar metropolitan areas nationwide

**8.** **How will the program be implemented?** (Program Design)

**i.e.** Youth will be recruited through local schools, churches, LAPD/Youth Authority referrals and grassroots canvassing during peak hours. Participants will participate in their first “Mad Jam Festival” where they are introduced to all the mixed media art and opportunities associated with each. Each participant will be paired up with a case worker (Student Psychology Major – clinical rotation) to identify life, education Career goals. The Case worker will administer a battery of assessment tests to help participant develop their Midnight Madness Map (Life Goals & Objectives Plan). The participant will select a focus and meet with the instructor all participants will participate in a Neutral Zone orientation where they receive an overview of the program goals, objectives, rules, and expectations. They will participate in team building exercises and then move to their focus area. Each focus area is led by a renowned artist, but managed by a intermediate instructor who facilitates the weekend program. The renowned artist designs the curriculum and develops the content for the Annual Festival. The yearlong program encompasses theory, practice and improve. While the instructor provides the final pass/fail grade for the certification, the program is heavily infused with “community input” and includes peer review. The program is designed as a Survey Course, allowing each participant to try on 5 different expressions of art. Upon completion of the full program participants will participate in an intensive review where they are expected to submit a final Show of Art. (a project or performance). The entire community will attend the exhibit. The participant will meet with his case worker to select his favorite art focus and then the case worker will work with the LA WorkSource, Lead Instructor, and other collaborating partners to place the participant in gainful employment. Participants are expected to return and mentor the next cohort. Exemplary Graduates will be hired as Instructors to facilitate future weekend programs in their area of focus (either at that site or a new location).

**9. How will you determine program effectiveness?** (Evaluation)

**i.e.** Youth will be administered pre and post-tests to ascertain their literacy, cognitive, and interpersonal skill set levels. The program will be evaluated 6 months into its implementation. It will be evaluated for program effectiveness: recruitment, retention, cultural competency, gang activity reduction, reduction in number of Latino males, number of youth interested in a new career pathway or artistic hobby, number of Latino males no longer affiliated with a gang, number of male youth placed on a job. The program will obtain feedback from the participants, the instructors, parents and siblings, gang members not involved in the program, and community stakeholders (local businesses, law enforcement, elected officials, churches, schools, etc.).

**10.** **What is the Duration of the Program?** (Length of Program)

**i.e.** This is a 5 year program. Each course is one year long

**11.** **Why is the PI the best qualified to lead this project?** (PI Capability)

**i.e.** Dr. Rodriguez is a Native Angeleno from East Los Angeles. He was a former cholo a member of Los Harpys neighborhood gang, and remains connected to the community through his annual BBQ in the Park events where he brings together rival gangs for a 24 hour truce. Dr. Rodriguez has a Master’s in clinical psychology and his doctorate degree in behavioral science. He has published over 20 articles on the Psychology of Gangs, Transforming Communities, and Economic Development in limited-resourced neighborhoods. Dr. Rodgriguez has presented nationally at NCURA, the Latino Association of Psychologists, appeared on Christina, Geraldo, and currently holds a Commissioner’s seat on the City of LA’s Education commission. Dr. Rodriguez is a full professor at CSU Fullerton where he chairs the Center for Latino Economic Development. A 1,200 sq. ft. facility in the University Resource Center.

**12. Develop a Catchy Title that captures your reader’s attention**

**i.e.** \*Think about the outcomes you hope to achieve from your project. **Medianoche Programa de Arte Locura: Using Art**