



Notre Dame Institute *for*  
**ADVANCED STUDY**

## **The NDIAS Paper: Overview**

The NDIAS Paper is about 3500-6500 words and is the centerpiece of each of our Spring seminars. The paper (like the NDIAS talk) has three goals:

1. To persuade your colleagues at the Institute of the importance of one of your research questions, the viable answers to the question, and the controversy that complicates the search for answers;
2. To teach us about the method(s) you are using to answer that question in ways we can understand;
3. To offer us opportunities to engage and shape the further direction of your work.

What's special about these papers, like the NDIAS talks, is that they are empathetic and generative. **Empathetic** (they predict what your readers will need, love, be frustrated by, want to debate, etc). **Generative** (the whole point of the paper is to make something happen afterward—namely a lot of institute engagement with your ideas after reading the piece). The piece can be written based on your research project for the year or excerpted from that project. If you choose the latter option, do some work to frame it to meet the goals of our session.

Though the main aim of this paper is to promote discussion of your written work, the structure of these papers makes them great candidates for submission to public-facing publications that value articles resting on a strong foundation of academic research. At this stage, we *don't* particularly care about polish, completed footnotes, etc. And none of these are final drafts. Indeed, we hope the draft will change after the seminar in interesting ways. We expect in preparing work for the seminar you will harness some of the writing ideas from the Winter Writing Retreat.

## **AT OUR WEEKLY SPRING SEMINARS:**

**Pre-Work:** The paper sessions for the NDIAS last two hours. Everyone is expected to have read the circulated draft in advance and prepared at least 1-2 discussion-generating questions based on the piece.

**During the Session:** The presenter has 5-10 minutes to introduce the piece to the group. Then we will discuss the piece for the remaining time in workshop format.