Mechanics of grant-writing

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Agenda for today

• Guiding principles
• Different parts of the grant
  • Introduction, background, rationale
  • Research purpose
  • Methodology and methods
  • Impact and outcomes
  • Team members
  • Timeline and budget
  • Conclusion?

• Guiding principles – approach?
The most important point...
The most important point...
Do I need this?
Is something missing?
Is what is written accurate?
Am I being consistent?
Can I write this in a simpler way?
Would Janelle understand?
Would Einnish understand?
What would Mary think?
Introduction, Background and Rationale

**Main role:**
1. Catch the attention
2. Set the stage
   - Why is this important?
   - Why they DO care?
   - Why this research MUST be done

**How do I do that?**
1. Pithy introduction
   - What is the issue?
   - Why is this an issue?
   - What am I doing about it?
2. Necessary topic A information
3. Necessary topic B information...
4. Necessary topic X information
5. PULL IT ALL TOGETHER = Problem
6. Your solution (research)
Purpose, Objectives, Research Questions and Sub-questions

Main Role:
1. To explain WHAT you are doing
2. There is no other role – This is plenty … and potentially the most important role of the entire grant.

How do I do that?
1. Clearly and accurately
   • One idea per purpose/objective/question
2. Logically
   • Each subsequent objective/question follows from the previous OR is clearly separate but related
3. Consistently
   • In terms of:
     • Language
     • Ideas
     • Content
Methodology and Methods

Main Role:
1. To explain HOW you are doing what you said you are doing
2. There is no other role

How do I do that?
1. Clearly
2. Logically
   • Each step follows from the previous OR is clearly separate but related
3. Consistently
   • In terms of:
     • Language
     • Ideas
     • Content

Organization? – CLARITY!
Impact and Anticipated Outcomes

Main Role:
1. To (realistically) say what good will come of this work
2. To convince them (if not done already) that the world can’t keep turning without this research

How do I do that?
1. Consider multiple levels and perspectives and say what value or outcome will be brought to each.
2. Say why the value or outcome is important from each perspective (or more if possible).
Research team and roles

Main Role:
1. To show that you and your team are THE team to do this research and that you all are committed to seeing it through.

How do I do that?
1. Focus on the grant and each person’s (unique) contributions TO THIS GRANT
2. Try to make sure that all expertise required is covered, or say how you will fill any gaps
3. Be honest – don’t overpromise
Timeline and budget?

**Main Role:**
1. To show that you’ve thought this through and that it is possible and realistic with respect to the cost and time involved

**How do I do that?**
1. Clearly (gant chart? Tables? Written timeline?)
2. Logically
   - Each step mentioned in the methods or elsewhere is included in the timeline
   - Use the same terms (e.g. phase, objective etc.)
   - All costs for all phases/objectives are included and covered either in the budget, through another pot or or in-kind
Do I need this?

Is something missing?

Is what is written accurate?

Am I being consistent?

Can I write this in a simpler way?

Would Janelle understand?

Would Einnish understand?

What would Mary think?
Get it down
Get it right
Get it pretty
Now?
Thank you!

Thoughts?
Comments?
Questions?