



Analyzing a Grant Proposal: Questions to Ask Yourself



Significance

What is the problem the proposal is planning to solve?

Determine whether the research proposed addresses a significant gap or an urgent question in the field.

Does the proposal provide compelling reasoning on why the research is needed?

Review the context provided in the proposal, including literature review and background information. The proposal should clearly state the need for the research and position it within the broader field.

If the project is successful, how meaningful and/or far-reaching is the impact?

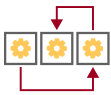
Evaluate the potential scientific, societal, or economic impact of the project. High-impact projects should offer benefits that extend beyond academic contributions, such as public health improvements or technological advancements. Projects with broad or significant impact are often prioritized.



Originality

What makes this proposal different from others?

Look for elements that distinguish the proposal from previous work, such as novel approaches, methodologies, or applications.



Approach

Does the proposal address all Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) requirements and goals?

Assess if the proposal aligns with the funder's mission and priorities. It's important to understand the objectives of the funding organization to evaluate how well the proposal matches them.

Is the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses well-reasoned and appropriate to accomplish the specific aims of the project?

Review the methodology to ensure it is robust, detailed, and capable of producing reliable and valid results. This includes assessing study design, sampling, and statistical analysis.

Does the proposal include plans for sharing findings with others?

Assess how the research findings will be disseminated to the target audience or applied in the field. Proposals that include plans for sharing results or practical applications are often prioritized.

Does the proposal list potential problems and provide alternative strategies to keep the project on track?

Determine whether the proposal accounts for potential risks and provides contingency plans. Proposals that include risk management plans demonstrate preparedness and adaptability.



Feasibility

Based on scope, budget, and time constraints, does the proposal's plan seem achievable?

Check if the proposal has a realistic timeline, budget, and resource plan. Consider if the objectives can reasonably be achieved within the funding period and with the resources requested.

Does the budget amount and reasoning make sense based on the proposed approach?

Verify that the budget is well-justified and aligns with the project's scope. Unjustified costs or vague budget items should be questioned, as they may indicate either poor planning or misuse of funds.

Are the proposed resources qualified and efficiently used?

Ensure that requested resources (e.g., personnel, equipment) are necessary and optimally utilized. Examine the qualifications and track record of the investigator(s) to determine if they have the necessary expertise and background to complete the project successfully.

Additional Notes