"The Foolproof Research Proposal Template"

http://theprofessorisin.com/2011/07/05/dr-karens-foolproof-grant-template/

LARGE GENERAL TOPIC OF WIDE INTEREST
(Global Warming, Immigration, Cancer, Etc.)

All this in the first 2 para-graphs!

Yes, I'm serious

Brief Ref. to Literature I

Brief Ref. to Literature II

"**HOWEVER,** scholars in these fields have not yet adequately addressed XXXX…"

GAP IN KNOWLEDGE
1. **Urgency**: This gap is bad!!!
2. **HERO Narrative**: I will fill this gap!!!

YOUR RESEARCH QUESTION
"I am applying to XXX to support my research on XXX"

SPECIFICS OF YOUR PROJECT
(background info, location, history, context, limitations, etc.)

As many pages as they allow and no more

LITERATURE REVIEW (Multi-page, thorough, accurate, relevant)

METHODOLOGY (Discipline specific)

TIMELINE (Month by month plan)

BUDGET (Realistic and legitimate expenses)

STRONG CONCLUSION!!!
("I expect this research to contribute to debates on xxxxxx")

May be reproduced with credit: **Karen Kelsky**, Ph.D., McNair Scholars Program, University of Oregon

NSF Research Statement – Example Outline

- 1 paragraph: high-level review of prior studies
  - What is the general topic area, what have we learned so far
  - What is important about this area, academically and more broadly
- 1 paragraph: current issue/debate, leading into your aims
  - What DON'T we know, why it matters
  - What you want to contribute to the issue/debate, how you plan to move the field forward
  - How will doing this research propel you as a scholar/researcher, long term
- 1-2 paragraphs: your academic/skills background
  - What are your interests, training, experiences that led you to your research aims, and positioned you to successfully tackle the issue/debate

NSF Research Statement – Example Outline

- 2-3 paragraphs: your research plan
  - Specific research question(s), hypotheses (Figure?)
  - Overview of methods, some possible results and impacts (Figure?)
  - Physical and intellectual resources that you will need, and their availability
- 2-3 paragraphs: your training and development
  - What technical training will you need to conduct the research, how will you get it, and when (Timeline)
  - Include info about relevant intellectual/program resources available to you (in your program, on campus, UC system, etc.) and how you will use them
- End with a broader summary of your research direction and where it might lead in 5 years, 10 years

NSF Personal Statement – Example Outline

- 1 paragraph: A vivid, academically relevant anecdote
  - Convey an experience that gives a first glimpse into who YOU are, distinct from everyone else
  - Anecdote can be from research, teaching, working, volunteering, etc.
- 1 paragraph: Building off the anecdote as context, state your current interests and goals in broad terms
- 1-2 paragraphs: Using the intro paragraphs as a spring board, give an overview of who are you and want to be:
  - Who you are NOW as an academic,
    Who you want to become in the next 5 years
    Who you want to be "when you grow up", i.e. 10 years

NSF Personal Statement – Example Outline

- 3-4 paragraphs: Your relevant history
  - Your background that lead up to where you are now
  - Courses, competitions, volunteer work, mentor/mentee experiences, hardships & challenges, successes & failures
  - Background should be relevant to the fellowship, proposed research, and academic goals
  - Background should expand and elaborate on the intro
- 3-4 paragraphs: 3-5 year plan for training & development
  - Research-relevant training, e.g. methods, techniques
  - Specific plans for outreach, leadership, good citizenry
  - Plans for becoming an educator and academic
  - Should include UCM/UC/other resources for your training and professional development
- End by tying back to the beginning anecdote

NIH

https://jef.works/blog/2017/10/19/NIH-F-series-grant-tips-and-example/

https://smhs.gwu.edu/ibs/sites/ibs/files/F31%20Sample%20Application%206.pdf

https://www.niaid.nih.gov/grants-contracts/calix-sample-f31-application-and-summary-statement

https://www.pitt.edu/~gsiegle/Siegle-f31hints-BehaviorTherapist10_fordistrib.pdf

NSF

https://www.alexhunterlang.com/nsf-fellowship

https://www.nsf.gov/news/news_summ.jsp?cntn_id=296246&org=NSF&from=news

Ford

https://carlnotsagan.github.io/resources/

https://blog.accepted.com/the-ford-foundation-pre-doctoral-fellowship-application-essay-tips/

https://www.gradpost.ucsb.edu/docs/default-source/default-document-library/fordsessionagenda10272016final.pdf?sfvrsn=0

UC Merced

Graduate Division library of successful fellowship proposals