

# ***OVERVIEW: PART TWO***

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## ***THE TEMPLATE OR MASTER PLAN FOR YOUR PROPOSAL***

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Once you have completed all of the activities that are summarized in Part One, you will be positioned well to begin development of the grant application, itself. The process should begin with development of the all-important *Specific Aims* section (section A of the Research Plan) and the significance subsection of the *Background and Significance* section (section B). These parts will introduce reviewers to everything that is important and exciting about your proposal.

Chapter seven, “*Specific Aims* Section: Conceptual Overview & Creating a Bullet Outline,” addresses the conceptual approach that underlies formulation of the *Specific Aims* section, provides the specific purpose for each of the thirteen components that collectively comprise this section, and will help you to develop the bullet outline that will be the foundation from which this section is developed.

Chapter eight, “Writing the *Specific Aims* Section, will take you, step-by-step, through the development of a first draft of your *Specific Aims* section. This will begin with expansion of the bullet outline, which will then be refined to provide an integrated overview of everything that is important about your proposal.

Chapter nine, “Significance Subsection of the *Background and Significance* Section,” will focus on development of the paragraph that is arguably the most important one in the entire grant application. You will be guided through a three-part approach to writing this part of your proposal.

These are the parts of your application that will provide the ‘blueprint’ – the template or master plan – for development of the rest of your Research Plan. If these sections are written well, the rest of the Research Plan becomes relatively easy to write. Thus, we encourage you to make the investment in them that will maximize the positive impact that they can have on both the preparation and review of your application.