

OVERVIEW: PART TWO

THE TEMPLATE FOR YOUR PROJECT NARRATIVE

Once you have completed all of the activities that are summarized in Part One, you will be positioned well to begin development of the *Approach*. It will consist of these sections for new applications (for renewal applications there would be an additional, “Progress Report” – see Chapter 11 for details):

INTRODUCTION

- Overview – Long-Term Goals & Objectives
- Review of Relevant Literature
- Preliminary Data

PROGRESS REPORT (IF APPLICABLE)

RATIONALE & SIGNIFICANCE

- Rationale
- Significance

APPROACH

- Each Specific Objective/Aim
 - *Introduction*
 - *Experimental Design*
 - *Expected Outcomes*
 - *Potential Problems & Alternative Strategies*
- (Project Outputs)
- Timetable
- Future Directions

The process of developing your proposal should begin with the all-important *Overview* section and the first part of the third section, *Rationale and Significance*. These parts of your proposal have great importance in terms of both its writing and review. With respect to the former, the *Overview* constitutes the “template” that will be used to write the rest of the proposal. In terms of review, they introduce reviewers conceptually to everything that is important and exciting about your proposal, thereby “hooking” their interest and making them want to read the details that are provided in later sections.

Chapter 6, “The *Overview* Subsection: Conceptual Overview & Creating a Bulleted Outline,” addresses the conceptual approach that underlies formulation of the *Overview* section and introduces you to the specific purpose for each of the components that collectively comprise this section. It will also direct you to a part of our website where you will find an interactive template that will help you develop the bullet outline that will facilitate the drafting of your *Overview* section.

Chapter 7, “Writing the *Overview* Subsection,” will take you, step-by-step, through the development of text for your *Overview* section. This will begin with expansion of the bullet outline generated in response to Chapter 6, which will then be refined to provide an integrated overview of everything that is important about your proposal.

Chapter 8, “*Rationale and Significance* Section,” focuses on the development of a part of your proposal, i.e., rationale, that contributes to the template or master plan for 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 *Approach*. If these sections are written well, the rest of the *Approach*, as well as other parts of the application, become relatively easy to conceive and write. Thus, we encourage you to make an investment in them that will maximize the positive impact that they can have on preparation of the rest of your proposal.