Challenges with and Tips for Writing Grant Proposals

Learning from Experience



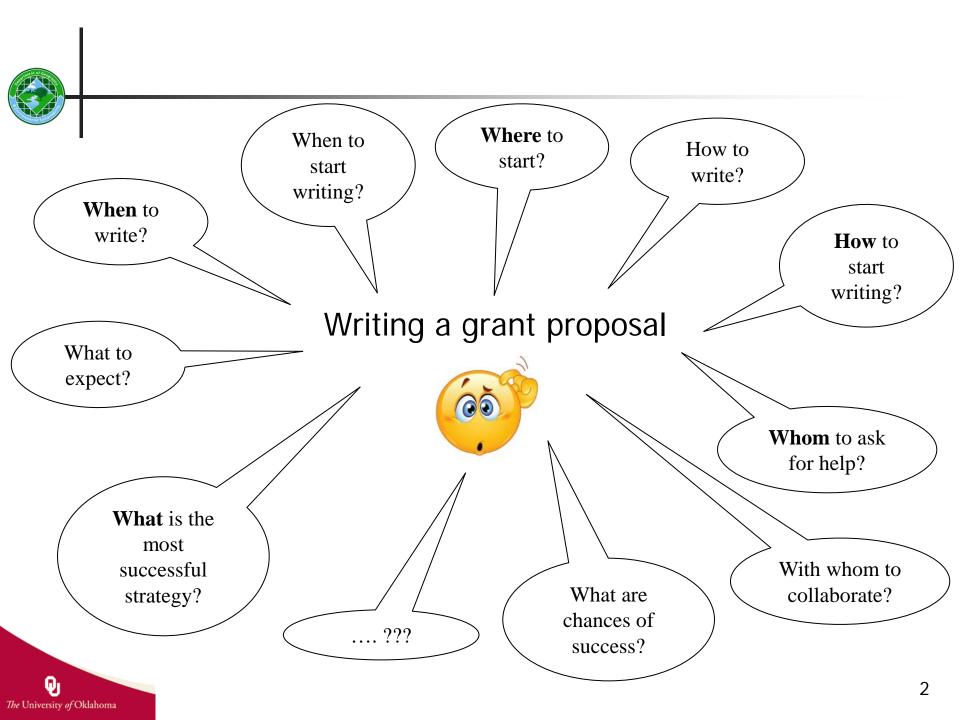
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1. Topic selection

- It should be new and innovative, but in the scope of general understanding

<u>Beware</u>: 'Brand new' (innovative) ideas and methods → high rejection risk

 Narrow it down/ make it specific (=specify your goals) to match the solicitation

Experiences: NSF, USDA, DOI, EC

 You should be excited about your topic and convey your excitement to the reviewer with your proposal



2. Competition

You are competing with renowned and acknowledged institutions (tribal organizations, NGOs, municipalities, scholars)

- How do you get through successfully?
- Is your project brilliant, but you are not known in the field?

What are your experiences?







3. Collaborators

- Get renowned scholars on board (if beneficial for the project)
 to overcome the authority barrier
- Make sure to involve people who know their field and 'stuff'
 → scientific correctness of your proposal body
- How to find collaborators? Where do you search?
 - → Network (workshops, conferences)
 - → Reach out (e.g. OU researchers look for collaborators and cooperation with Native American tribes)
 - → Be open to new opportunities



3. Collaborators – cont.

Sometimes opportunities are just in front of you ...

- Jad environmental economics, water resource protection, renewable energies, sustainability
- International research and project experience
- Successful with grant proposals, publications and presentations at professional meetings
- NSF Career proposal searching for Native American collaborators Water conservation in Oklahoma
- Happy to share resources and contacts to my network





4. Acceptance vs. rejection

- Be positive and optimistic, but REALISTIC (acceptance rates, competition)
- Learn from experience multiple rejections will make you tough!
- Learn from your mistakes (reviews) and do not repeat the same mistakes in your future proposal writing
- Learn from the grant proposal process and from other collaborators



5. Never give up!

- Be persistent a brilliant idea and your bright mind is going to be successful (sooner or later)
- Practice makes perfect!
- Do not stop expanding your collaborator network for future proposals & projects







Thank you

I look forward to discussing potential collaborative projects with you

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