

Workbook Descriptions

Any Agency Workbook

The grant applications of most agencies contain basically the same sections – only the specific names for the sections and the order in which they appear in the application are different. In addition, the principles and fundamentals of good proposal writing are the same for all agencies. Given these two facts, we have written a 'generic' workbook that can be used to write a proposal to any granting agency. It walks the applicant through the preparation of each section and is meant to be complemented by the specific instructions of the agency that is being targeted.

NIH Workbook

The magnitude and importance of the changes in how applications to NIH will be written and reviewed cannot be exaggerated. On balance, they will be exceptionally positive but difficult for applicants to implement. This version of the new *Grant Application Writer's Workbook - NIH* is designed to help members of the extramural community understand and cope with these changes so that they can capitalize on them at the earliest possible time. It is designed to give members of the extramural community 'guidelines and instructions' on how to write the shortened proposals that are now required for the **2012** deadlines and thereafter.

The *Workbook* refers users to download from grantcentral.com that allow the applicant to interactively: (i) create a bullet outline as the first step in developing the template or master plan for the rest of the Research Plan, and (ii) set up a writing schedule.

NSF Workbook

For most funding opportunities, NSF allows electronic submission of a proposal through either Grants.gov (SF424 format) or FastLane (NSF's historical electronic format). Because > 90% of applicants have chosen to submit through FastLane, our NSF *Workbook* is for that format. Principles and fundamentals of good proposal writing are emphasized in this *Workbook*, together with tips and strategies that kept the authors continuously funded throughout their research careers. The approaches can easily be transposed to the SF424 format if Grants.gov is chosen as the preparation/submission system. The *Workbook* is interactive in the sense that examples are provided after which the reader is asked to make a comparable response in his/her area of research interest. As such responses are made the first draft of the application evolves.

Online access to templates complements the *Workbook*, allowing the user to: (i) set up a writing schedule, and (ii) create a bullet outline that guides preparation of master plan for the Project Description.

USDA-NIFA Workbook

There have been many changes at the USDA with respect to how it supports research through competitive grant proposals. This new edition of *The Grant Application Writer's Workbook*, USDA-NIFA version, has been written to help researchers understand and cope with the new, more limited range of RFAs, integrated proposals, use of the SF 424 application format and the USDA-NIFA's Grants.gov electronic submission package. Timelines are often quite short, sometimes with only 8-to-10 weeks between the issuance of an RFA and an application's due date. Accordingly, this edition has been designed to help make the process of writing a competitive application quicker and more efficient. Principles and fundamentals, as well as practical tips and strategies, continue to be emphasized.

Written by academicians for academicians, this edition is interactive in the sense that examples are provided, after which the reader is asked to make a comparable response in his/her area of research interest. As such responses are made; the first draft of the application gradually falls into place. Online access to templates complements the *Workbook*, allowing the user to: (i) set up a writing schedule, and (ii) create a bullet outline that guides preparation of the master plan for the Project Narrative. Many have found this overall package – *Workbook* plus online resources – to be a powerful tool in terms of writing a competitive USDA-NIFA grant proposal.

Biomedical Workbook

The adage that success in science, particularly within academic domains, is predicated upon "publish or perish" has never been more true than it is in the biomedical sciences in the 21st-century. In this respect, the incredibly fast pace in which biomedical knowledge has increased underscores the importance of timely publication of new research findings. The *Writing for Biomedical Publication Workbook* specifically lays out, in a step-by-step fashion, how to think about and write each important section of a biomedical manuscript, as well as how to approach key associated issues such as co-authorship, editors, reviewers and conflict of interest.

In addition, the advent of the internet has resulted in profound changes in the publication process itself that has been amplified through increased demands for public access to scientific knowledge generated from government-supported research. These changes are reflected through the proliferation of a multitude of online biomedical journals, electronic access to traditional publications and almost immediate publication of research findings following acceptance by a journal. These changes require a significant shift in thinking about Journal selection, opportunities for plagiarism, strategies for literature searches and peer review. Each of these issues is comprehensively discussed in the *Workbook*.

Many of the topics addressed in the *Workbook* cannot be readily found in other volumes with similar focus; thus this *Workbook* can be expected to serve as an invaluable resource for all but the most experienced of biomedical scientists in improving their writing skills and efficiency in effectively communicating research results.