How to Write a Scientific Grant Proposal

If you perform research under a faculty member, you may be asked to write a grant proposal in order to apply for funding. Grant proposals can be divided into different parts.

Abstract

- The abstract is not only a concise summary of your project, but it is also an explanation that states why your project has long-term importance in the field.
- The abstract should be able to stand on its own, giving readers complete understanding of your project and its significance.

Project Description

This section explains what you want to accomplish and why. It consists of several parts:

- **Background:** Include information relevant to your research topic. Link your current project to missing aspects of previous research, and state how your research will advance knowledge in the field. Mention the long-term objectives of your research.
- **Preliminary Data:** If you have any, and, if your mentor believes you should include it, use tables and graphs to show data that you have already collected.
- **Hypothesis:** Summarize the overall questions and specific aims you seek to answer with your research.
- **Research Design and Methods:** Outline the specific procedure you will complete to accomplish each aim and answer your hypothesis. Describe how you will collect and analyze data. If you are applying novel techniques, explain why they are or may be superior to existing techniques.

Budget and Timeline

- Prepare a budget with strong justifications for each expense.
- Mention how your home institution will assist you with your project.
- Explicitly list the proposed amount of time you will take to carry out each part of your project.

References

In APA format, cite any sources you used.