First Page Exercise

Writing a one-page synopsis of your project before proposal writing can help you focus on what funding agencies look for (goals, outcomes, activities, and implications). In addition, the first page is the most important part of the proposal for most agencies and reviewers!

In this exercise, focus on a project you are hoping to get funded. If you don't have one in the works, make up a "dream project" so you can practice with this exercise. *Maximum: 1 page, double-spaced.*

The sentence openers in this exercise are based on a successful COE IES proposal. This exercise can be used to focus your project ideas and proposal writing plans, or even in your proposal abstract or intro.

Opening paragraph:

-The purpose of this research is to... (one sentence…Note that opening paragraph should align with funding agency goals noted in the RFP)

(Then several sentences highlighting problem and need in larger societal context).

-The project promises to... (one sentence on expected outcomes, short-term / long-term)

-These contributions are significant because… (one or two sentences on implications, benefits, stakeholders who may benefit, etc.).

2nd paragraph:

Our long-term goal is to...

The objective of this project is to...

Our central hypothesis is...

(Then a few sentences on background from the lit review).

3rd paragraph:

-We will pursue the following specific objectives. (These are the specific activities).

-Objective 1: Test...develop...conduct...etc. (active verbs like this...one sentence).

    -This includes: a) evaluating... b) analyzing.... c) assessing... (active verbs like this)

-Objective 2 to 4: same process, using lettered lists for more details if needed.

Closing paragraph

-This project is innovative because...

-The following outcomes will be evaluated and assessed...

-These outcomes are expected to (benefit, improve, increase, have a positive impact on)...etc.

-Finally, add one or two hard-hitting sentences on broad implications of your successful project.

> (Ask yourself the following questions to craft the conclusion):
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> How might it contribute to the research field?
>
> How might it serve students or teachers, especially those currently underserved (improving student learning outcomes, professional development, etc.)
>
> How might it affect education and policy beyond the local project?
>
> How might it be used as a model for other schools, states, projects, etc.?
>
> Most importantly, how do your outcomes fit the funding agency's goals in the RFP?