



A one-page project summary or concept outline can help you organize your thoughts and help NSF Program Directors determine if the proposed research is a good fit to the scope of their program. The Program Directors may discuss with those managing other programs so they can give you useful feedback.

Please note: Program Directors will help you figure out the best “home” for your ideas at NSF, but they will not provide the type of detailed feedback on your proposal that you would expect from a mentor or colleague.

One-pagers should mirror the format of the Project Summary portion of an NSF proposal (i.e., brief overview, statement of intellectual merit, and a statement of broader impacts of the proposed work).

Below are some tips to consider when writing a one-pager:



1. WRITE TO A SPECIFIC PROGRAM

One-pagers should be specific to the program. Read the solicitation thoroughly and be sure that your project aligns with the scope of the program. If you aren't sure if it is a fit, point this out when you write to the Program Director and note any other programs you might be considering.



2. USE YOUR SPACE STRATEGICALLY

Good one-pagers include your overarching question, the big picture of your research area and knowledge gaps you plan to address, your hypothesis, brief descriptions of specific aims, and any preliminary data. That's a lot to fit on one page! Keep background information to a minimum; briefly describe why the research is important and how it advances current knowledge. Use most of the page to explain your hypotheses and your approach(es) to addressing them.



3. ADDRESS SOLICITATION-SPECIFIC CRITERIA

In addition to the two merit review criteria (Intellectual Merit and Broader Impacts), many programs evaluate proposals using additional solicitation specific review criteria described in the program solicitation. To be competitive, this additional information must be addressed in your proposal.



4. DON'T FORGET BROADER IMPACTS

Don't forget the Broader Impacts in your one-pager. They are part of the review criteria, so address them without providing extensive details.



5. BE PATIENT WHEN AWAITING FEEDBACK

Responses to one-pager queries typically take a week as they may need to be discussed in program meetings and/or sent to Program Directors in other programs. If you don't hear back within two weeks, please send a gentle reminder; we all get busy and don't want things to fall through the cracks!



6. FOLLOW UP AFTER YOU GET FEEDBACK

After you hear back about your one-pager, you may want to consider scheduling a meeting with a Program Director. This meeting can provide an opportunity to ask specific clarifying questions about the solicitation, your proposal ideas and preparation, and about other NSF funding opportunities that may be appropriate for your project.

First Name, Last Name, Organization Name, Email

Target Program, Potential Secondary Program(s)

Proposal Type

This may vary depending on the program but common proposal types include: Research, Rapid Response Research (RAPID), Early-concept Grants for Exploratory Research (EAGER), Research Advanced by Interdisciplinary Science and Engineering (RAISE), Grant Opportunities for Academic Liaison with Industry (GOALI), Conference, Center/Research Infrastructure (see relevant funding opportunity) or Fellowship (see relevant funding opportunity). Additionally, several career point specific proposals exist including Faculty Early Career Development Program (CAREER) and Mid-Career Advancement (MCA) proposals. Further information on these opportunities can be found in the PROPOSAL & AWARD POLICIES AND PROCEDURES GUIDE (PAPPG) and program solicitations.

Relevance to Program

1-2 sentences about how your research fits the program goals

Brief Submission Running Title

Key Terms

up to 6 key words or phrases

Concept Outline

This section should be one page in length, usually 2-3 paragraphs that include a brief overview, a statement of the intellectual merit of the proposed research activity, and a statement on the broader impacts of the proposed activity. Keep in mind the suggestions from the previous page and be sure to address your overarching biological question, the big picture of your research area and knowledge gaps you are addressing, the hypotheses you will use to address this question and briefly the specific aims and what you are planning to do, and any key preliminary data.