

A: POINT OF DEPARTURE: You are brilliant and you have a great idea.

B: OBJECTIVE: Obtain funding to pursue your great idea as a research project.

C: STRATEGY: Move successfully from A to B.

BASIC POINTS TO KEEP IN MIND: Foundation X has funding to support research projects such as yours. They are in the business of providing support for worthy projects such as yours. They want to support your research project. They want to give you their money.

PRACTICAL QUESTION: What can you do to increase the likelihood of receiving support?

WHAT YOU CANNOT DO: You cannot foresee the pool of proposals within which your proposal will be competing. You cannot know who will be reading your proposal.

WHAT YOU CAN DO, FOR A START: Eliminate anything that might decrease your chances of writing a competitive proposal.

Follow instructions; organize your proposal according to the headings (topics, questions) provided . Make it easy your reader to understand your thesis, approach, goals, work schedule, and projected outcomes.

Be clear and concise about the significance and originality of your proposal. State how you are qualified to accomplish what you propose to accomplish.

Simplify your sentences. Check style, grammar, and spelling. Show your proposals drafts to others. Neatness counts

Be aware of the notorious jargon issue: limit your use of terms that someone outside your field might not easily understand.

Keep in mind that drafting a successful proposal requires a learning process. You may not receive funding the first or second time around. But the effort to work on your writing skills in this context will surely be of long-term value.

Good luck!