NSF Summary Workshop

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Who are you?

- Department/Expertise
- Submitted to NSF? How many? Funded?
- CAREER goals/experience?
- When was the last summary you wrote?
Summary 101

• Single-page
• 3 sections (Overview, Intellectual Merit, Broader Impacts)
• 4600 characters max

• Your reviewers may not read past your summary!!! Tell them why you’re worth it.
What are intellectual merit and broader impacts?

• The Intellectual Merit criterion encompasses the potential to advance knowledge.

• The Broader Impacts criterion encompasses the potential to benefit society and contribute to the achievement of specific, desired societal outcomes.
NSF Merit Review Criteria

The following elements should be considered in the review for both criteria:

1. What is the potential for the proposed activity to:
   A. Advance knowledge and understanding within its own field or across different fields (Intellectual Merit); and
   B. Benefit society or advance desired societal outcomes (Broader Impacts)?

2. To what extent do the proposed activities suggest and explore creative, original, or potentially transformative concepts?

3. Is the plan for carrying out the proposed activities well-reasoned, well-organized, and based on a sound rationale? Does the plan incorporate a mechanism to assess success?

4. How well qualified is the individual, team, or organization to conduct the proposed activities?

5. Are there adequate resources available to the PI (either at the home organization or through collaborations) to carry out the proposed activities?

Your job: explicitly address all five criteria in the context of telling the reader the exciting things that you wanted to tell them anyway.
## Example: Proposing to eradicate cancer

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Intellectual merit</th>
<th>Broader impact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I will advance knowledge in Exciting Area A in order to eradicate cancer</td>
<td>Society will benefit from my eradicating cancer. In the process of eradicating cancer, I’m going to engage in related outreach/education/increasing STEM participation among underrepresented groups.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My use of Exciting Approach B makes my technical approach particularly original and transformative.</td>
<td>My outreach is really creative and original.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My efforts to eradicate cancer are well-organized and based on valid planning in that... I’ve incorporated plans to measure success.</td>
<td>My outreach has a great plan, including a great plan for assessment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I’m super-well qualified to do this – I’m definitely the right person for the job.</td>
<td>See the great outreach I’ve done before? I’ll definitely knock this ball out of the park.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My great expertise and resources mean that I’m well equipped to eradicate cancer.</td>
<td>I’ll be building off of existing outreach/collaboration/NU Center for STEM.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>