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)
• 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.
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>My Proposed Research A will advance knowledge in Exciting Area B in order to eradicate cancer. (So you remind them what your exciting research is – A – and claim that it advances B.)</td>
<td>Society will benefit from my eradicating cancer. In the process of eradicating cancer, I’m going to engage in related Outreach 1/ Education 2/Increasing STEM participation 3. (Remind them what your outreach plan is.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My use of Exciting Approach C makes my technical approach transformative. (Similarly, remind C to prove innovation.)</td>
<td>Aspect 4 of my outreach is particularly creative and original. (Remind them of an important aspect, and support originality.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My efforts to eradicate cancer are well-organized and based on valid planning in that they build from D to E to F. I’ve incorporated plans to measure success.</td>
<td>My outreach’s Great Plan 5 includes Assessment 6, making it extremely well planned. (Remind them of important aspects, including assessment, to show plan’s quality.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My prior accomplishment of G makes me particularly well qualified to do A-F.</td>
<td>My prior outreach 7 sets me up for impactful success in 1-6.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My expertise/lab/resources mean that I’m ideally equipped to eradicate cancer.</td>
<td>My and NU’s existing outreach infrastructure (i.e. Center for STEM) equip team for success.</td>
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</tbody>
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