

Improving Research Proposals Through Review of Your Proposal Summaries

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This session is designed to emulate an NSF panel review. Most of the groups are arranged such that you will be reading proposal summaries written by participants with BROADLY similar interests. For some groups, the participants may be from similar types of institution. Keep in mind that although you may not be familiar with the science in the proposal, this is often the case when reviewing proposals for groups like NSF. Program managers like to have reviewers who are concentrating on bigger picture science.

At the start of the session you will have time to read and make notes on the proposal summaries prepared by other participants in your group. Following this, for each proposal a group member (not the author) will briefly present the proposal summary. They will then lead a group discussion on the intellectual merits and broader impacts of the proposal. Only at the end of each discussion will the author be permitted to join the discussion. Your group leader will assign discussion leaders, keep time, and provide a summary of the session, including best practices, at the end. It is very important that all members of the group have an opportunity to receive feedback. Our hope is that you will receive useful input to your proposal, including how best to couch it for a particular agency. Perhaps you will find some new collaborators. You will receive written feedback from your group leader and one other workshop leader.

Please remember that all of the proposal summaries and the contents of the group discussion are confidential. What happens in your group stays in your group.