

Workshopping your CAREER Proposal:

Part I. Writing the Introduction and Overview, and Intellectual Merit sections

Guiding Questions

Following are questions to help you draft the *Introduction and Overview, and Intellectual Merit* (first 2 pages) of the Project Description.

Goals:

- What is your great idea (i.e., what are you interested in)?
- What is the goal of your CAREER project (what do you want to achieve)?
- What will we know or be able to do that we don't know or can't do now?
- What gaps in knowledge will you fill?

Significance:

- Define the significance of your project in relation new knowledge you will generate and the impact of that knowledge on the field.
- What new lines of research will your project enable?

Research Questions / Hypotheses:

- Why can't you accomplish your goal right now?
- What are the scientific barriers and what do you need to find out?
- What are your specific research questions and/or hypotheses?

Approach / Objectives:

- Objectives are the main things you have to accomplish to achieve your project goal(s). What are your objectives?
- How do your objectives tie to your research questions/hypotheses?
- Summarize the methods you will employ to achieve each objective.

Education Plan:

- What are your educational goals and objectives for this project?
- What is your motivation and experience as it relates to your educational goals?
- What overall impact do you expect from this education plan?

Intellectual Merit:

- How well does your project advance knowledge and understanding?
- How creative, original or potentially transformative are the concepts?
- How well conceived and organized is the proposed activity, and will you have sufficient resources?
- How well qualified is the proposer to conduct the project?