

*General Outline of a Proposal**

- I. **Abstract:** Written in slightly more general terms.
- II. **Overall Objective or Goal of the Research;** the **Hypothesis.**
- III. **Background:** Demonstrate that you know the field thoroughly. What is the “state of the art”? What are the unanswered questions?
- IV. **Significance:** If your plan works, what will be gained? To knowledge (advancing the scientific field) or for society.
- V. **Specific Aims:** 1-2 sentences on each point that you intend to investigate.
- VI. **Experimental Plan.** The “guts” of the proposal. Describe experiments that will address the specific aims, and at least a part of the overall goals.

* Taken largely from the ACS Petroleum Research Fund Guide.

Clear Presentation

- State the problem or hypothesis.
- State why the issue is significant.
- State what you are going to do.
- Explain how you will carry out the proposed work.

State Your Research Objective

- Make clear in the first paragraph exactly what your proposal is about.
- The statement of your research objective should lead you directly to your methodology

Review (grading) Criteria

Significance:

- Does the study address an important problem?
- If aims of application are achieved, how will scientific knowledge be advanced?
- What will be the effect of these studies on concepts or methods that drive this field?