

Some Thoughts on Grants

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Some Thought on Grant Writing

- Find the relevant funding agency/program
 - What they are looking for (eg NSF v NIH & diff RFAs, programs etc)
- Let the research drive the proposal
 - Don't force it; be opportunistic; establish a track record in the area first
- Know your audience
 - Look at past funded grants (NSF) or panels (NIH)—may not have control
- Plan for your proposal
 - Figure out timing; get examples of successful grants; coordinate with admin/help
- Write a good proposal
 - Make a clear case for your audience (usually broader for NIH, but don't write technical stuff for NSF either); convince the reviewers
 - Write coherently and accurately; respect the literature; writing resources
 - Rewrite and rewrite and rewrite again!
- Seek feedback: internal & external (mentors and peers) — start early!
- Be persistent, resilient and learn how to use the reviews
- Volunteer to review