



Getting Started on Writing a Grant Proposal

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Objectives

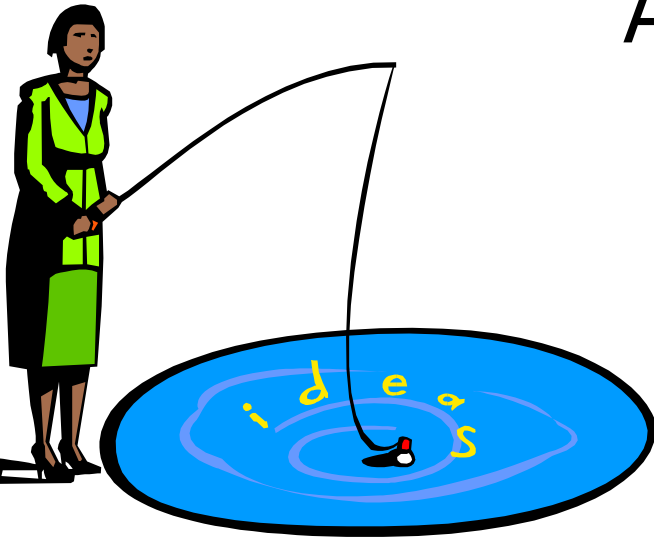
By the end of this discussion, the participant will be able to

1. Outline strategies for **getting started** in writing a grant proposal
2. List techniques to overcome the **“time” block**
3. State **5 C’s effective grant writing**

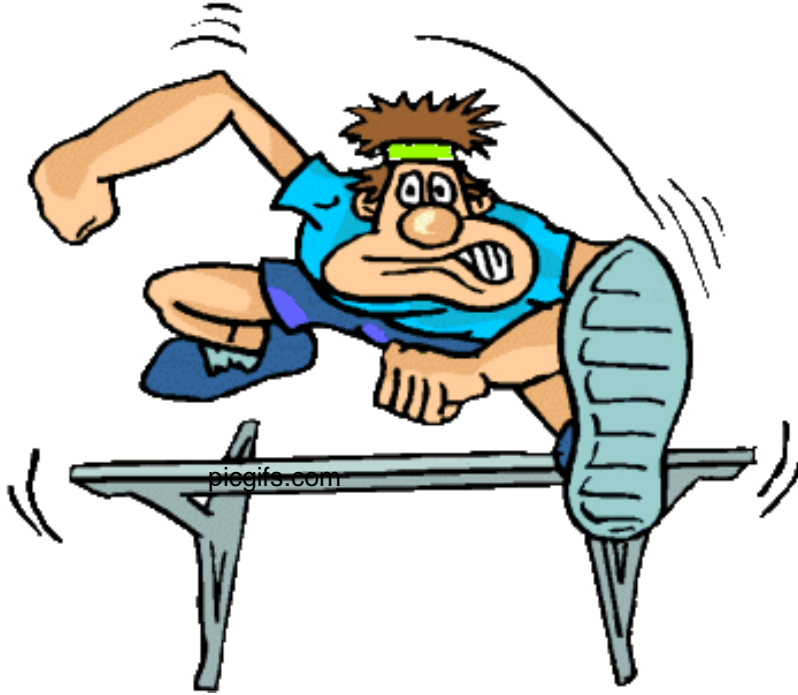
Grants, Academic Papers and Reports

All Require

time to think
idea(s)
planning/preparation
writing
submission



Getting Started



YOUR hurdles

= OUR hurdles

- **time** to think
- **time** to write

Time to Think



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“You will never find time for anything. If you want time you must make it.”

Charles Buxton author

MAKING time = TAKING time

Finding Time to Think



Capture Ideas for Grant and Papers



- Notebook
- E- mails to self
- Smart phone
- Binder, File folder
- Other



Review regularly

Finding Time

What is **YOUR** best time to

a) think?



b) write?



“5 minutes here and 5 minutes there”
NOT work

Finding Time to *Write*

Set aside time to write:

schedule time for writing

When and where?

Writing is complex task

- time of day
- warm up period
- environment
- distractions / priorities



Found Time

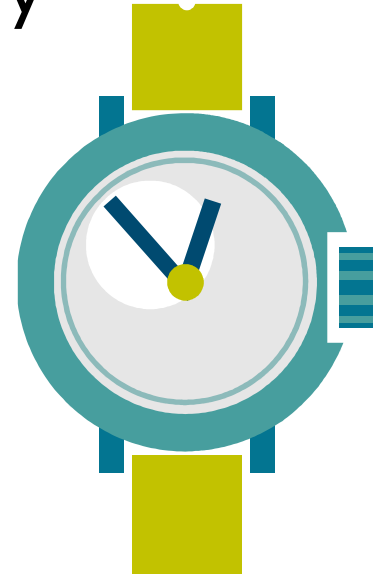
At Work:

an hour at beginning or end of day

on call time

regular noon hour meeting

2 times per week with yourself



At Home:

one 2 hour evening a week

2 one hour sessions in early morning

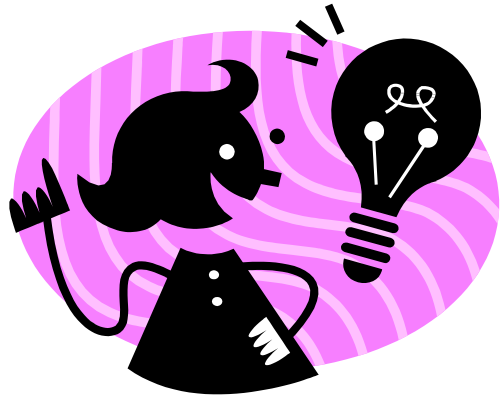
Traveling: away from home etc

Annual Leave ???? **NO!!!!**



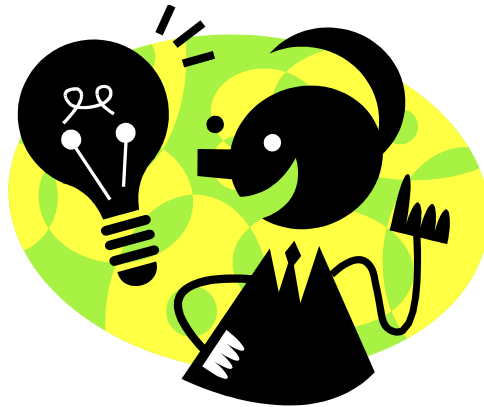
Grant Proposals

Thinking about the Grant Prepare Yourself



Successful Grant
Application

good idea



good science

good application

Thinking: Prepare to Write



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- What is the problem?
- What is your question?
- Why do you care about this?
- Who is your intended target for the Grant?
- Why would they be interested?
- Is it a fit for this granting agency?
- Who might want to work on this with you?
- What skills do your team members bring?

Thinking: Prepare to Write-



- What advantages do you see in multidisciplinary research?



- What makes this hard?

Getting Started on a Grant Proposal



NEM



NEM

Grant ideas piling up in
your notebook,
Team has good discussions
Done research to see where
to apply for grant
Writing Time is now
in your schedule

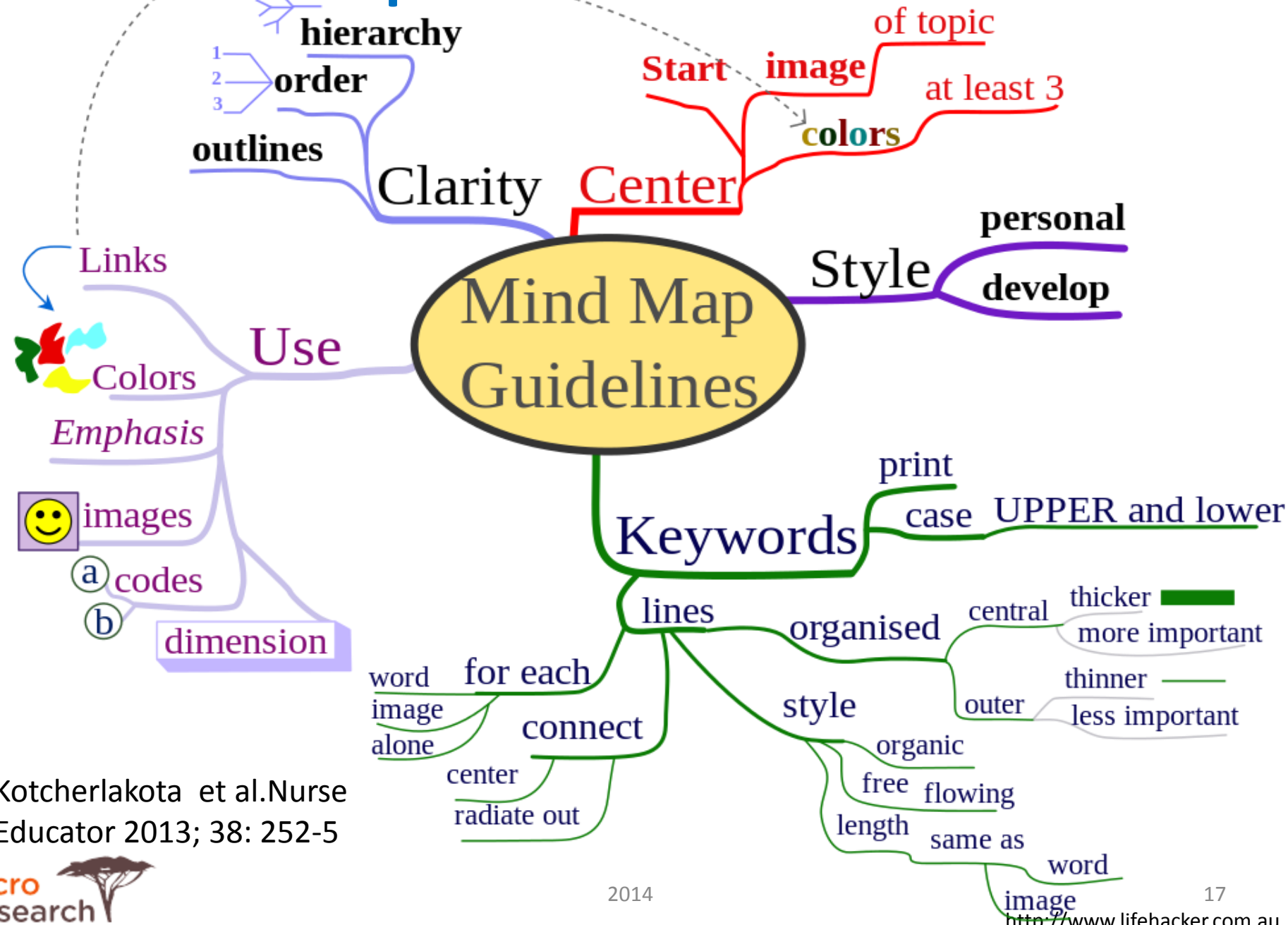
Write a rough outline of the grant.....

We all 'think' in pictures/maps



<http://www.lifehacker.com.au>

Wiki: Mind Map



Kotcherlakota et al. Nurse Educator 2013; 38: 252-5

5 “C”s: Effective Grant Writing

- 1. Context:** identify with interests of funding agency and potential reviewers for your grant proposal
- 2. Competent:** Make sure you know the facts
- 3. Coherent:** well organized, linked together
- 4. Concise:** focus on what is important, avoid the trivial
- 5. Compelling:** make the grant reviewers / funding agency team want to read your whole proposal

“Rough” Outline of a Grant

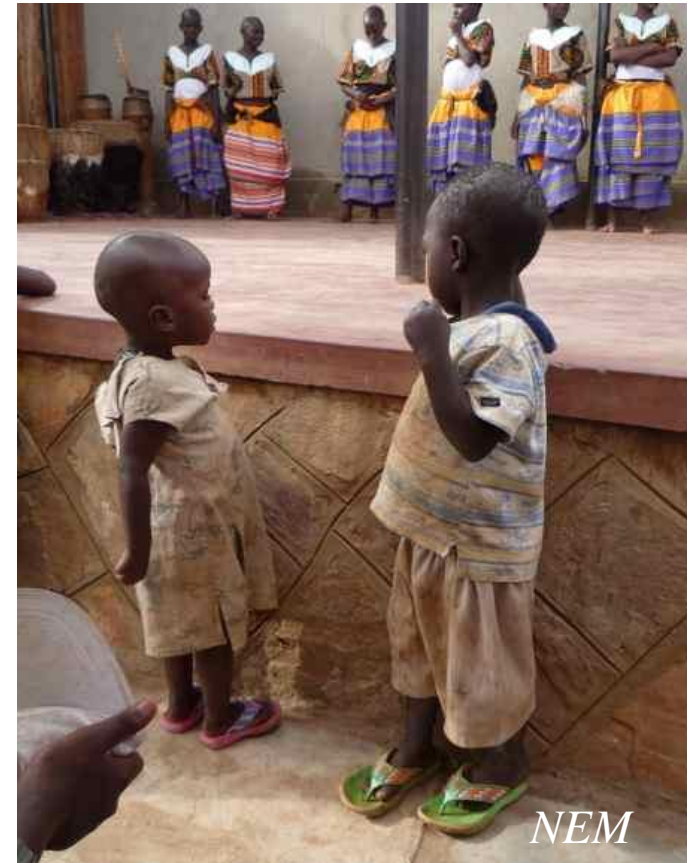
State the problem

Write your question
-your good idea

Describe what you hope to
achieve

Describe how will do this

Outline who/what you will
need to do this



See Chapter 16

Use Grant Outline

1. Develop **background literature review** (narrative, systematic.....)
2. Discuss with **potential co-applicants**
e.g. MicroResearch team
3. Assess if **need** grant \$\$ to do the project****
even not need \$\$ - still need planning
4. **Search** internet for **grant application opportunities** e.g. MicroResearch application at www.MicroResearch.ca
5. Find a **grant coach** (comes with MicroResearch)

Write next draft to ***fit*** ***application*** requirements

Get help with sections not sure
of.....

research design

methods of recruitment,
number needed

analysis methodology
ethics etc etc etc

budget

knowledge translation

All sections deserve attention

右

Get help

卑

Be humble

Common MR Grants Strengths and Weaknesses (to date)

Strengths

1. Question is relevant
2. Related well to Millenium Goals
3. Relevant summary of current literature

Weaknesses

1. Methodology needs work
 - Mixed up methodology
 - Unclear components – population, timeline etc
2. Budget not justified, over budget
3. Knowledge translation weak

Write, Rewrite, Rewrite and Rewrite your Grant

Concise



Clear

Correct

Careful/care filled

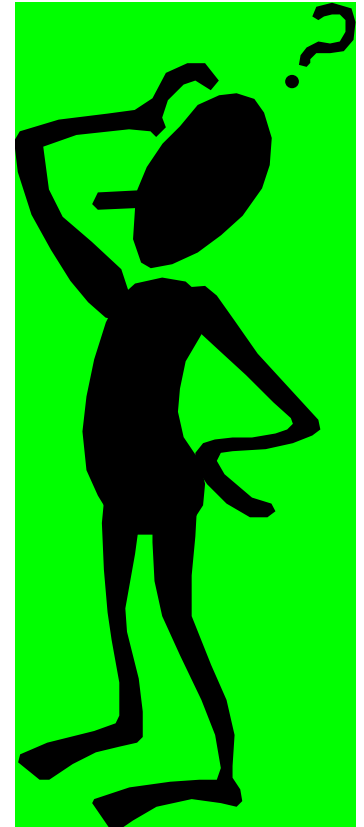
Complete

Grant Outcome

Accept

Queries

Reject



Grant was accepted!!!!

Yeah 😊



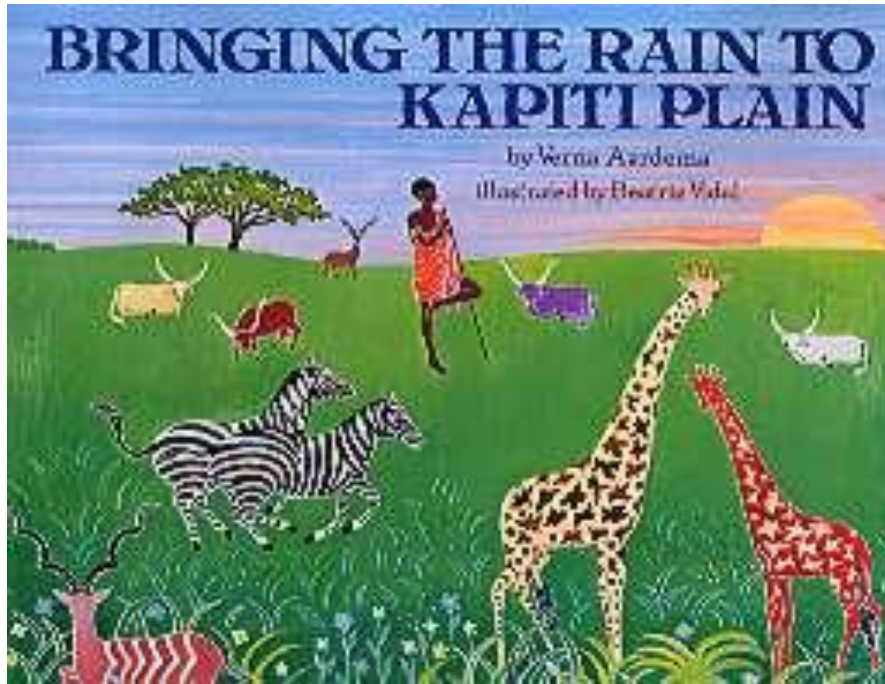
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Data...
Results...

What
now?



**Let the
data
talk to
you.**



**Tell this
data
as a
'story'
to others.**

Summary

1. Take **time** to think.
2. Schedule **time** for writing.
3. For a grant:
 - a) Let your **passion** lead you to your ideas
 - b) Methods/Approach will follow if you follow MicroResearch approach
 - c) Be **humble**; build a team and **ask for help**
 - d) Let **the data tell you the story**; not the other way around

Time to Write.....

Grants, Papers, Reports

“Time is the coin of your life. It is the only coin you have, and only you can determine how it will be spent. Be careful lest you let other people spend it for you.”

Carl Sandburg

Useful Websites for Grant Tips

<http://www.microresearch/curriculum>

(Chapter 16- on your memory stick)

<http://www.epa.gov/ogd/recipient/tips.htm>

http://grants.nih.gov/grants/grant_tips.htm

<http://www.grandchallenges.ca/proposaldevelopment/>



Team Work Day 3

- Meet your coach; introduce team; add coach's email.
- Coach to send email to all to ensure emails are all active
- Further refine the research question
- Start on background- what is known, what is not, why is this question important etc
- Begin to think about research design
- Assign work tasks

Homework for tonight

1. Review the Powerpoint from Day 2 to be sure you understand the types of designs for projects
2. Look over the documents in the memory stick so you have an idea of the content and can use the method that will be used in your project.
3. For the project your team has chosen, list the advantages and disadvantages of 2-3 research designs to discuss them the next day.