

ENGL 7070 Grant and Proposal Writing

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## **Literature-Based Analysis of a Problem in Grant Writing**

Keywords - Theory/research: multicultural, theory: approaches

I wrote a targeted literature review that addressed considerations and strategies particular to writing a hypothetical grant application of interest. Being an international student in an American university, I have closely observed while also experiencing to an extent, the troubles internationals face when they move abroad for education. Thus, the topic I chose for this essay is related to funding for international students: a situation in which a grant application needs to be written requesting funding for minority scholarships. Based on the situation, my target audience is grant writers, and I focused on explaining to them certain facets to consider when writing a grant proposal for minority scholarships, particularly for international populations. Specifically, the essay outlines strategies in grant writing that could be used by grant writers secure grants for research, teaching, and/or practice. This essay reports on the history of published scholarly research and useful sources related to the topic.

I have provided three reasons to support the fact that funding should be provided to international students: (1) Benefits of having international students on campus; (2) Financial problems of international students; (3) Acculturative stress for international students. I used these reasons to help grant writers understand the issue closely so that they are able to form the needs statement. Trice (2003) conducted a study on the attitudes of faculty toward graduate international students. She emphasized that faculty members find having an international student population beneficial because it welcomes new perspectives and helps local students by providing new foreign research links and business links. International students add to the local economy through direct expenditures and enrich the experiences of domestic students (Owens et al, 2011, 157). These benefits can be continued for the country if suitable support is provided to international students who make tough compromises when living in a different country.

Further, I have suggested that grant writers collect demographic information to find out the number of students coming from undeveloped countries. This information is essential because the standard of the living of the United States is very high for international students, especially those coming from undeveloped countries. This then adds the question of how these students will survive on and later repay education loans. Finally, I introduce the cultural shock these students get when they arrive in the country. These students have a hard time adjusting to the American culture and understanding the system, policies, rules, etc. They also face English proficiency problems and fear racial discrimination. This could lead to depression and acculturative stress, and these factors can affect their studies. While writing this essay, I

attempted to remain sensitive to the needs of diverse minority populations so as not to imply that funding should be taken away from or reduced for American minority students in the process of funding international students. I did this by simply focusing on the reasons why international students could legitimately be considered as a minority community in their own right. Additionally, I did not enforce any criteria whether funding should be merit based. My aim is to aid grant writers effectively form their need statement by helping them understand issues from the perspective of an international student.

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## References

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- Trice, A. G. (2003). Faculty perceptions of graduate international students: The benefits and challenges. *Journal of Studies in International Education*, 7(4), 379-403.