

# WRITING AN EFFECTIVE GRANT PROPOSAL

Danny Krashen - UGA grant writing workshop, 2013

# WHAT MAKES A PROPOSAL EFFECTIVE?

- Clear and Skimmable
- Targets information that the reader is looking for

# CLEAR WRITING STYLE

- If you are an excellent writer, ignore this. Otherwise...
- Freshman writing structure:
  - Introduction, Supporting of main points, Conclusion
- This describes structure of document as well as individual sections as well as each paragraph.

# STRUCTURE MANIFESTO

- Every part must have: intro, support, conclusion
- You must answer these questions clearly:
  1. What are you doing?
  2. Why is it interesting?
  3. Why is it hard?
  4. Why can you do it?



# EXAMPLE

Introductory paragraph:

what is it?

why care?

why is it hard?

why can you do it?

My current research is in noncommutative algebra, in particular, the study of graded orders in graded Azumaya algebras, and related structures. These graded orders have been of interest to theoretical physics in recent years (as related to the study of gerbes, or “ $B$ -fields”), and have rich connections to algebraic geometry. The study of graded orders uses a variety of algebro-geometric techniques, as well as methods from operator algebras, and triangulated categories. In my thesis work, I used triangulated categorical methods to give a partial classification of 2-dimensional orders. I am currently pursuing both independent as well as collaborative projects on extending some of these results to higher dimensions as well as to develop tools in operator algebras which might be applicable to the theory of orders in future research.

# STRUCTURE OF REST OF INTRODUCTION

- supporting intro paragraph:  
history/interactions/  
techniques. nontechnical
- concluding intro paragraph:  
description of remainder of  
document

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# DOCUMENT STRUCTURE

- Each section (e.g. current research, future research) should have a intro paragraph making the contents of the section clear.
- The first sentence of the first paragraph of the section should make it clear that the paragraph will explain the contents of the section.
- Each paragraph of each section should have a topic sentence, supporting text, and conclusion. It's OK to be somewhat repetitive, but try not to overdo it.



# FURTHER THOUGHTS

- Do you really want the grant? What are the benefits? What are the drawbacks? What are the responsibilities?
- Think through what you are applying for and how you will use the resources you are asking for.
- Are you asking for enough?
- Can you realistically do (most of) what you propose?
- Also include things which are speculative.



THINK BIG  
AND  
SPEAK CLEARLY!