Significance, Investigators, and Environment criteria were all very well addressed. The broad biological approach is complete and well thought out but did not give enough discussion space for the specific objective of *de novo* genome assembly. The inclusion of mock sequencing methods also confounded source of data (generated vs retrieved).

One small error that created a huge impact: The proposal calculated genome coverage as 107% (1.07x) which would have been a very incomplete data set. The in-proposal calculation agreed with 107%, but bringing up the SRA accession to calculate independently yielded 107x coverage.

Listing software packages for individual QC functions really helped define your pipeline. More detail on the assembler- version, date, and an expanded discussion of choice- would have been very beneficial. This could have also bolstered the Innovation criterion. While it is difficult to provide a novel approach for an existing data set, assembler choice and biological approach did not show innovation. While significant, the objective seemed to contribute another data point to an ongoing research effort. The only given rationale for choosing Velvet over other Illumina-appropriate assemblers was its speed; for a relatively small data set a different justification may have helped provide your innovative angle (ie; improving upon existing assemblies with a more accurate reconstruction).

The expected outcomes could use more support, too. Expecting a complete genome may be too optimistic- a backup plan or alternate expectation would be good to have. In its current language, the assertion that repeats will “ruin” the assembly seemed to disagree with the anticipated outcome as repeats are a very common element of genome structure. Using a different de Bruijn Graph assembler (ABySS) to solve issues with k-mer development or inaccuracy seemed like an incomplete strategy as it also uses a k-mer based model. Here, you could talk more about k-mer testing or additional software packages to resolve inaccuracies instead of proposing a total assembler change.