

Most Common Grant Writing Mistakes



International Grants:

- Grant is just used to get airfare
- Little or no development of a research question

If you're applying for an international grant, be sure to clearly describe what it is you plan on doing abroad and why you couldn't do your research domestically. There should be a clear purpose for your trip and outcomes that can be shared with the academic community when you return.

Art Grants:

- Grant is just used to get supplies
- Only focuses on benefits to artist
- No larger motive or purpose

Even if you're not doing surveys or collecting data for your research or creativity project, there still needs to be an outcome that will contribute to your field. In your proposal, be sure to state the reason for pursuing the project, what you hope to get out of it, and how you plan on sharing what you gained from the project with others.

Science Grants:

- Too technical. Uses jargon and undefined scientific terms
- Not explained at a general level
- Cannot see big picture

Research proposals should be written for the general layperson. Always assume that the reader of your proposal has very little knowledge of what you're researching. Also make sure to explain how your research will impact your field.

Humanities Grants:

- Example questions in surveys not included
- IRB required
- Sample size and other experimental details lacking

If you plan on using a survey to collect data for your research or creativity project, be sure to include example questions and possible sample sizes in your proposal. Also remember that if you will be working with humans for your project (this includes any kind of survey or interview process), you will need to get IRB approval before you are allowed to collect your data.