

Top 6 reasons why research proposals get rejected



In the world of scientific research, those who write a research proposal will more often than not be rejected. There are many foundations and government agencies that report that more than half of all grant applications they receive will result in research proposal rejection. Here are the top six reasons why.

1

Avoiding directions

Those [writing the research proposal](#) did not follow the directions as given. If a researcher, or group of researchers, cannot follow simple directions in applying for a research grant, how can those researchers be trusted to complete their project as stated? It is hard to offer funds for research to those who did not pay attention to detail in their proposal.

2

Lack of research about the grant

The applicants did not take the time to do some research about the grant opportunity. Too often, those writing a research proposal fail to look deeper into the grant maker's background and determine if there is a match. Applicants can save themselves some time by ensuring that they are applying with those institutions that are truly interested in their research. Oftentimes, applicants read a philosophy statement and figure the opportunity is worth an application when, in reality, some research would show that the organization would never fund their research.



3

No anticipated revenue

An applicant will write a research proposal that will not bring in any other money. Foundations love proposals that will utilize grant money to actually generate some revenue. If a grant application can show that it will bring in other money, it may have a greater chance of success.

4

Research issue not important enough

The problem to be researched is not important enough. Just because a group wants to research or test a certain hypothesis does not mean that an organization will find it important enough to fund. In many cases, a foundation or government agency will reject a proposal because they do not believe that any new information will be produced as a result.

5

Unrealistic equipment expectations

Some research proposal rejection is based upon the requirements for personnel and equipment. Applicants for a grant will often give unrealistic expectations for equipment. This can have an impact on cost. Many times, the backgrounds of the personnel that will work on the project comes into question. If an applicant will be using student volunteers, for example, in a certain complex process, that may be a red flag for the research proposal being accepted.



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Inadequate evaluation plan

If an evaluation plan is not adequate, many grant makers will reject a proposal. The methods of evaluation need to be clear and measure the expected outcomes. If these methods of evaluation are too vague or do not clearly measure what is expected as a result, the grant application will most likely be rejected.

Scientific research is important not only to those in their respective fields, but also to society and humanity in general. Research can help find cures for diseases and help to feed the world, but that research needs funding to take place. Properly submitting grant applications in order to complete research is imperative. Understanding the major reasons why research proposals get rejected can help more applications get approved.