

# A Grant Writing (Specific Aims page) Lexicon

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Adapted from Grant Writers' Seminars & Workshops, LLC

Opening sentence/hook: What makes the proposed research relevant to the funding agency's mission.

Current knowledge/background: Just enough information to set the scene for the reviewers with regard to current knowledge on the topic.

Gap in knowledge base/problem: Statement of what is holding your field back from substantive progress; must be addressed by the proposed research.

Why the gap is a problem/significance of problem: The substantive advance that needs to be made.

Long-term goal: The continuum of research of which this particular proposal is a part.

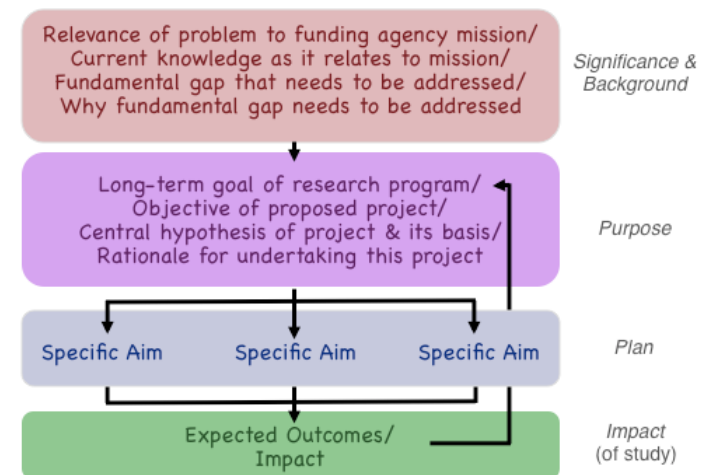
Objective of this proposal/purpose: Must fill the gap that has been identified.

Central hypothesis and its basis: The overall theory that will be tested by the proposed research, and the background (preliminary data and literature) that makes this likely. Must be able to test the hypothesis objectively.

Rationale: What your research will make possible that is not possible now.

Specific Aims titles: Independent but related aspects of the central hypothesis; will be tested in parallel (as far as possible).

Working hypothesis: Statement of sub-hypothesis to be tested in an aim, to clarify its focus (must give indication of what will be tested and how).



Expected outcomes: What you think the aims will accomplish.

Positive impact/contribution/deliverables:

- How the expected outcomes will make a **vertical** advance in the field.
- How the proposed research is expected to contribute to the funding agency's mission (the return on its investment).