**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).