Why Are Proposals Turned Down?
(source, National Science Foundation)

1) The problem is trivial or is unlikely to produce new or useful information.
2) The proposed research is based on a hypothesis that rests on doubtful, unsound, or insufficient evidence.
3) The problem is more complex than the author realizes.
4) The problem is local in significance, production, or control, or otherwise fails to fall clearly in the mainstream of the discipline.
5) The problem is intellectually premature -- only a pilot study.
6) The problem as proposed is overly involved with too many elements required to be investigated simultaneously.
7) The description of the research leaves the proposal nebulous, diffuse, and without a clear aim.
8) The proposed methodology, including tests and procedures, are unsuited to the objective. May be beyond the competence of the investigator.
9) The overall design is not carefully thought out.
10) The statistical aspects are not given sufficient consideration.
11) Approach lacks imagination or originality.
12) Controls are either inadequately conceived or described.
13) Proposed material for research is unsuited or difficult to obtain.
14) The number of observations proposed is unsuitable.
15) Available equipment is unsuited to the research.
16) Investigator does not have experience or training for proposed research.
17) Investigator appears to be unfamiliar with pertinent literature or methods, or both.
18) Investigator's previously published work in the field does not inspire confidence.
19) Investigator relies too heavily or insufficiently on experienced associates.
20) Investigator is spreading him/herself too thin.
21) Investigator needs more contact with colleagues in this or related fields.
22) Requirements for equipment, personnel, or time are unrealistic.
23) Other responsibilities prevent the investigator from devoting sufficient time to this project.
24) Institutional setting unfavorable.
25) Current research grants held are adequate in scope and funding to cover the proposed research.

Let us help you avoid these problems!
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