

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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