

Interpreting Reviewer Feedback

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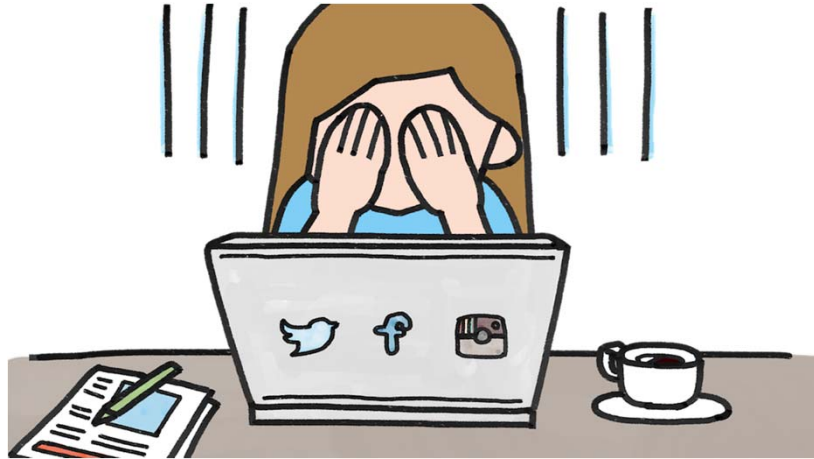


- > Write your proposal
- > Reviewed by your friends, associate deans, etc.
- > Send it off!



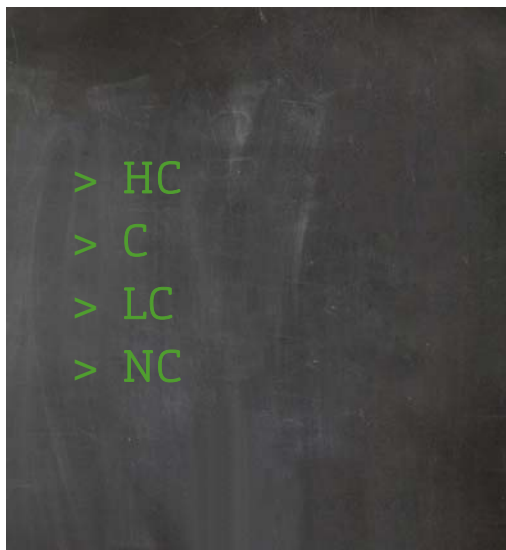
<https://giphy.com/gifs/animation-fM8tl2W42Je0g>

Wait



<https://zen.collegevine.com/the-big-picture-rejection-doesnt-stop-with-college-results>

Panel Review



<http://justlikecooking.blogspot.com/2012/02/knights-of-periodic-table.html>

And, the answer is no.



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<https://olinblog.wustl.edu/author/raisaa-tashnova/>

NSF Standard Panel Review Questions

With respect to the review criteria in the solicitation.

1. What is the potential for the proposed activity to
 - a. Advance knowledge and understanding within its own field or across different fields (Intellectual Merit); and
 - b. Benefit society or advance desired societal outcomes (Broader Impacts)?
2. To what extent do the proposed activities suggest and explore creative, original, or potentially transformative concepts?
3. Is the plan for carrying out the proposed activities well-reasoned, well-organized, and based on a sound rationale? Does the plan incorporate a mechanism to assess success?
4. How well qualified is the individual, team, or organization to conduct the proposed activities?
5. Are there adequate resources available to the PI (either at the home organization or through collaborations) to carry out the proposed activities?

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Actual Example – Power System Security

- “The panel suggested that the PI consult these sources”
 - “you didn’t cite my or my friends’ work.”
- “The panel suggested that the PI broaden their focus”
 - Power became Power and Aircraft
- “The panel suggested the PI’s narrow their focus”
 - Back to Power (with control)
- “The panel suggested the PI’s broaden their focus”

Program Manager Changed

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My favorite bad reviews of all time

- > “This is just more academic game playing”
- > “We should not support the institution’s Apartheid-Like Practices”



Clarity in Writing/Presentation

- BLUF – bottom line up front
- TL;DR - Get to the point quickly, this is not a research paper
- The science of the Fog computing paradigm creates an elusive mystery for the power industry to study.
- The successful outcome of this proposal builds a Fog power system.



Why is this important?



- Does it fit a gap in anyone's portfolio?
- Does it expand current practice?
- Will anyone pay for it?

The Heilmeier Catechism



- What are you trying to do? Articulate your objectives using absolutely no jargon.
- How is it done today, and what are the limits of current practice?
- What is new in your approach and why do you think it will be successful?
- Who cares? If you are successful, what difference will it make?
- What are the risks?
- How much will it cost?
- How long will it take?
- What are the mid-term and final “exams” to check for success?

Give it a try:

Inherently Secure Cyber-Physical Systems - a TA2 proposal

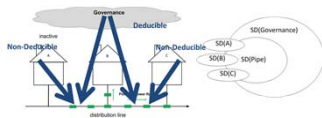
Goals and Impact: This project will produce secure peer to peer cyber-physical systems that do not rely on trusted components. This is a significant departure from existing work that relies on assumptions of trust to secure composed secure systems which is limited as it assumes a restricted attack on individual components. Our approach does not rely on restrictions of information and control flow in and out of individual security domains to ensure secure operation.

TOO Sciency – Use the Heilmeier Catechism

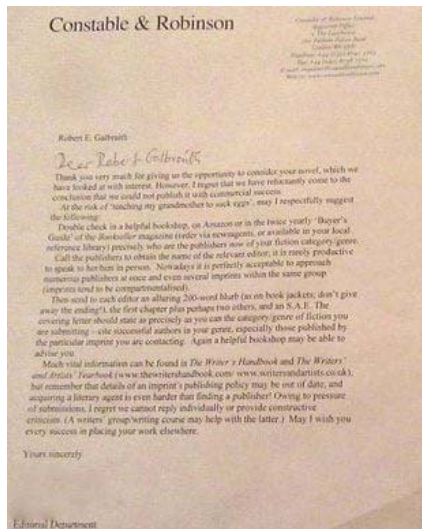


Getting Help

- Your Associate Deans
- Your Mentors, CAFE
- OSP
 - Proposal Development Unit
 - Large interdisciplinary proposals
 - Graphic Artist



Do not be discouraged – it's business



Exercise – Review the Following Proposal

We want to investigate the science of flight. Through this we will learn how to build better aircraft by improving current designs. During the work we will incrementally redevelop our plans on a rolling basis to adapt to changes. The PIs graduated from top schools. We will reach out to K-12 and minorities in our work to broaden our impact.

