

# Tips for Your Fellowship Application

## 1) Make it **TOUGH** for REVIEWERS...

*... to disqualify your application!*

- **Turn in your application ON TIME**

- **Follow directions!**

*Did they ask for Times New Roman, 12pt font? Do it!*

- **Address all required components**

*For example: The NSF requires your application to demonstrate “broader impact”. Don’t gloss over this! It counts for a huge percent of your score!*

Reviewers have LOTS of applications to read, so they will look for any excuse to disqualify you or give your application a bad score. If they can find a reason to toss it out, then it’s one fewer application to discuss with the other reviewers – saving them time and headaches!

Lots of other people will have good applications, but reviewers won’t remember them all when it’s time to discuss who actually gets the money. Improve your chances by making the most important points of your application stand out VISUALLY so that it’s easy for your reviewer to pick them out quickly and remember how much they liked you.

## 2) Make it **EASY** for REVIEWERS...

*... to see and explain why your application is awesome!*

- **Summarize your points and goals clearly**

*There’s nothing wrong with boxed bullet points!*

- **Use a couple of diagrams and illustrations**

*They actually are worth 1,000 words when you’re trying to explain cutting-edge science in two pages.*

- **Block text essays are boring**

*Spice up your formatting! Block text puts reviewers to sleep and is tough to pick out details from. You know how textbooks use text boxes, bold font, and sectioning to organize material for the reader? Try it!*

## 3) **COHESIVE** + **CREATIVE**...

*... equals a great investment!*

- **Make connections**

*Try to relate different sections of the application to show reviewers that all the details fit together!*

- **Be thorough!**

*Don’t “forget” to address potential roadblocks!*

- **Sell yourself and your unique plan**

*Be confident! You DO deserve this fellowship because your ideas ARE unique and important.*

These fellowships WANT to give away their money to be put to good use! A cohesive application shows that you have a well-conceived plan and achievable goals. A creative application makes you stand out, and gives them a reason to choose you over the competition. Show them that you’re a great investment!