Seminar in Aphasiology/ Katz
Mini-Grant final project

Title – Be sure this reflects your work and is of appropriate length. Many foundations specifically limit title length. See other grants if you want examples.

Project summary – In one full paragraph, sum up project aims, design, methodology, and contributions this research will make to the field. It is often best to list specifics (*e.g*., the number and type of subjects to be tested, the type of imaging or on-line testing planned) to make this section clear and compelling.

Aims of research program - This section should <u>not be a simple repeat</u> of the project summary. Rather, it should be an expanded discussion of general and specific aims (describing what you seek to achieve). One way of doing this is to begin by stating the general aims (e.g. "to help elucidate the neural basis for affective prosody processing") then list specific aims that will met as you work toward this goal. For example:

1. Establish a database of emotionally-laden speech produced by left-hemisphere and right-hemisphere damaged adults
2. Perform acoustic analyses investigating fundamental frequency in affective and linguistic prosody… (etc.)
3. Test the perceptual significance of these acoustic analyses by playing speech samples to a group of naïve listeners… (etc.)

Budget - Remember to include a 6% (inflation) increase for similar items from year to year. We will assume <u>this project will last 3 years, for a total of $180,000</u>.

Background and significance – Remember to provide citations where necessary. It is a good idea to provide examples for difficult-to-explain concepts. You want your reviewers to understand your ideas and get excited about them.

Contemplated method of approach to the problem - As in the *Background and Significance* section, citations, clear explanations and examples are important. It is helpful to have sub-headings, e.g. "Methodology/Subjects/Procedure/Statistical Analysis," where appropriate.

! Hypotheses and predictions: Very few agencies will fund research just because it has not been done before. You need to motivate your proposed work by stating the existing hypotheses to be tested, describing how you will test them, and making predictions for what you expect to see. This consideration should also be kept in mind for the *Aims, Background and Significance, and Contemplated method of Approach* sections. **THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF THE GRANT!**

Potential experimental problems – Without going into a huge laundry list, think about what might go wrong and how you would propose to fix it. For example, suppose you plan to have Broca's aphasics read a narrative sample and have this sample analyzed by college student raters.   What if you get a highly dysfluent subject who cannot get any words out? Or what if the rating scheme you propose turns out to be inappropriate for aphasic data? What would you do then? Prepare some brief, alternative suggestions to show the reviewers you have anticipated some of the major potential pitfalls.

Ethical aspects – Will your project present *no risk/minimal risk/greater-than-minimal-risk* to human subjects? Will there be any information withheld from subjects that might otherwise be important to their health or well being? Would any of your proposed research involve depriving subjects of treatment they may have otherwise received? If you foresee problems, what steps will you take to minimize these risks? See the NIH web page (http://grants.nih.gov/training/responsibleconduct.htm) or related sources for more information.