

DEVELOPMENTAL STEPS FOR CHAPTER SEVEN:

1. Appreciate that there are two audiences for whom you are writing: the minority audience (primary, secondary and tertiary reviewers) and the majority audience (those reviewers who, in all likelihood, will not have read your application prior to the time that it comes up for consideration at the review-panel meeting).
2. Realize that this section of the application is written for the second, majority audience.
3. Understand the strategy that underlies this section, which is to provide a conceptual framework that will allow your representatives at the meeting (the primary, secondary and tertiary reviewers) to hang details on it, thereby helping reviewers who are relatively ignorant of your application to reach a point where they can cast an informed vote.
4. Understand the purpose of each component that makes up the Specific Aims section and how each must be written to meet its purpose.
5. Appreciate how the components must be linked to one another in order to create a linear progression of logic.
6. Download the interactive template from our Web site (www.grantcentral.com/downloads.html) that will facilitate development of your bullet outline.
7. Create a bullet outline that includes each of the ten components that comprise the Specific Aims section.
8. After leaving the outline alone for a day or so, return to it to determine whether it can be improved. Continue to do so until you, as the PI, cannot make it any better.
9. Seek constructive criticism of the bullet outline from the Key Persons and Other Significant Contributors who are on your research team.
10. Continue to work on the outline until each component meets its purpose, each is linked to the others in the way(s) that it should be, and the progression of logic is linear. When you reach that point, you are ready to proceed to chapter 8.