

Strategic EDITING *of* Grant Applications

Why polish the language on text that is never published?

Strategic editing is much more than language polishing. Valerie Matarese PhD, your strategic editor, edits grant applications to improve the:

Persuasiveness of the text

Grant applications are persuasive documents that must convince reviewers of the novelty, importance and potential impact of the proposed research. Persuasive arguments in text are made with **rhetoric**—skillful use of language, style, word choice—and English rhetoric is different from the rhetoric of the romance languages. A proper balance must be struck between excessive boasting and ineffectual modesty, to give just the right level of certainty about the proposed work. *This is the work of a professional editor.*

Readers' experience with the text

Reviewers of grant applications appreciate well-structured texts in which the information flows with forward momentum, the reading experience is pleasant and easy, and the author's message is clear and concise. The writing must *enhance* the reading experience, not hinder the reader's ability to engage with the content. Adjusting the language to make **reader-friendly prose** *is the work of a professional editor.*

Accuracy of the scientific reporting

Biomedical terminology, scientific notation, commercial reagents, significant digits, charts and tables—grant applications are full of **technical details**. Accurate reporting of scientific content in a grant application is a reflection of accurate work in the laboratory and shows the applicant to be sharp and attentive to details. Checking the details for accuracy *is the work of a professional editor.*

Researchers' efficient use of time

Grant applications are probably the most difficult texts that researchers write, given the extreme competitiveness complicated by **deadlines** and arbitrary **word limits**. Helping complete a proposal on time and making it fit the available space *is the work of a professional editor.*

Valerie Matarese PhD is a professional scientific editor with 20 years' experience supporting researchers who write in English as an additional language. Born in New York and trained in biochemistry, cell and molecular biology, she worked in basic research at the University of California San Francisco, the Whitehead Institute of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and GlaxoWellcome Medicines Research Centre in Verona. As author of original articles and books, she has first-hand knowledge of research publishing.

Let's be clear: the importance, novelty and impact of the proposed research are the most important factors in funding decisions, and no amount of good writing can overcome scientific weaknesses. At the same time, poor writing—failure to persuade, confusing presentation, technical inaccuracy—detracts from a scientifically valid proposal and hinders the chances of funding. *There is no excuse today to work without a professional editor.*

For further information and a no-obligation price quote, contact:

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Scientific editing in the biomedical sciences



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