



Proposal Strengthening Tips

*By
Miner and Associates*

Reviewers to Applicants: Cut Down on the Bragging

Recently, the grant consultants at Miner and Associates were asked to review a proposal in which "the PI bragged so loudly that it deafened the federal agency reviewers." In its January 19, 2010 *Grantseeker Tips* newsletter, Miner lists three of the offending sentences followed by revisions they say would have strengthened the proposal:

• **Original**

We have been extremely successfully in adapting instructional materials to communicate engineering and information technology issues to undergraduate students.

Revision

We have ten years of experience in adapting instructional materials to communicate engineering and information technology issues to science undergraduate students.

• **Original**

The PI and his research team have had remarkable success developing teaching materials dealing with information technology.

Revision

The PI and his research team of four science educators have developed eight multimedia information technology teaching materials in the last five years that have been adopted in 50 universities.

• **Original**

Furthermore, the PI has a strong affiliation with an online educational resource laboratory.

Revision

Additionally, the PI has an established track record of collaboration with an online educational research collaboration; we signed our Memorandum of Understanding in 1998 and it has lead to twelve joint projects in the area of undergraduate instructional materials.

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GRC encourages members to submit their perspectives on successful proposal writing for inclusion in a future edition of *GrantWeek*. Contact Meg Cantwell at cantwellm@aascu.org.

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