

Guidelines for writing a Research Proposal:

5-6 pages double spaced (not including references)

Introduction: (~2 pages)

The introduction should be a review of the literature on the topic that you will be addressing in your experiments. It should be longer than that found in the introduction of a data paper, but use the same strategy of setting up the arguments you wish the reader to follow to your hypothesis. Lead the reader from what is known to what the pertinent questions are.

Specific Aims:

List in separate complete sentences (bullet format) the aims of your proposal. They could be reagents to be made, questions to be answered, or hypotheses to be tested.

Experiments and Expected/Possible Results: (~2 pages)

Provide a detailed explanation of the experiments you would perform to accomplish the specific aims listed above. Try to design experiments that are the best way to address the question posed. Also, but less importantly, try to utilize a variety of techniques. Explain what the experiment is, the reagents used, the controls, and the expected results. Make sure to explain your rationale for all choices made. Also explain how you would interpret the results if they were to be different from those predicted by the hypothesis.

Conclusions/Discussion: (~1.5 pages)

Briefly summarize the purpose of the set of experiments, discuss their relevance to the field as a whole, and highlight the directions you might follow based on the possible outcomes of the experiments.

References:

Cite all references in the text with a superscript number and then list them in order in the references section of your proposal. When listing the references, please enter all information in the style of an Immunity paper (you can use the Hengel paper as an example). You should have at least 2 primary literature articles and can use reviews or textbooks for information that is more common knowledge.

Figures:

Use your discretion in preparing figures. Anything that would be more easily understood (background information or a model) or sample results are appropriate material for a figure. No more than 4 figures are appropriate. Do not spend time making them fancy, clarity is more important than graphics.