



SSHRC INSIGHT DEVELOPMENT GRANT “INSIGHTS”

December 4th, 2020



Before you write

- Supporting grants
 - Internal Faculty > SSHRB > SSHRC Insight Dev. > SSHRC Insight
- Collaborators
- Co-investigator on other grants
- Publish relevant work
- Read examples of successful grants
- Talk to the research office (timelines, review, ROLA...)

Writing



Answer all questions asked in the application



Address all evaluation criteria explicitly (use their words)

Evaluation criteria and scoring

The following criteria and scoring scheme are used to evaluate the applications:

1. Challenge—The aim and importance of the endeavour (50%):

- for [established scholars](#): the proposal's relevance to the objectives of the funding opportunity;
- originality, significance and expected contribution to knowledge;
- appropriateness of the literature review;
- appropriateness of the theoretical approach or framework;
- appropriateness of the methods/approach;
- [quality of training and mentoring](#) to be provided to students, [emerging scholars](#) and other highly qualified personnel, and opportunities for them to contribute; and
- potential for the project results to have influence and impact within and/or beyond the social sciences and humanities research community.

2. Feasibility—The plan to achieve excellence (20%):

- appropriateness of the proposed timeline and probability that the objectives will be met;
- expertise of the applicant or team in relation to the proposed research;
- appropriateness of the requested budget, justification of proposed costs, and, where applicable, other [financial and/or in-kind contributions](#); and
- quality and appropriateness of knowledge mobilization plans, including for effective dissemination, exchange and engagement with stakeholders within and/or beyond the research community, where applicable.

3. Capability—The expertise to succeed (30%):

- quality, quantity and significance of past experience and published and/or creative outputs of the applicant and any co-applicants, relative to their roles in the project and to the stage of their career;
- evidence of past knowledge mobilization activities (e.g., films, performances, commissioned reports, knowledge syntheses, experience in collaboration / other interactions with stakeholders, contributions to public debate and media), and of impacts on professional practice, social services and policies, etc.; and
- quality and quantity of past contributions to the [development of training and mentoring of students, postdoctoral researchers and other highly qualified personnel](#).

Adjudicators will consider information on only the **last six years** of research contributions. Any career interruptions will be taken into consideration.

Attachment Upload

Detailed Description

General Presentation:

- Body text in a minimum 12 pt Times New Roman font
- Single-spaced, with no more than 6 lines of type per inch
- All margins set at a minimum of 3/4" (1.87 cm)
- **Note:** Failure to adhere to the guidelines will lead to your application being declared ineligible.

Your file must meet the following specifications:

- PDF format (.pdf extension); unprotected
- Maximum file size of 10 mb
- 8 1/2" x 11" (216 mm x 279 mm) or A4 (210 mm x 297 mm)
- Maximum 5 page(s)

Using the following headings, address the Challenge and Feasibility evaluation criteria of the funding opportunity. Describe the proposed research in enough detail to allow informed assessment by committee members. Avoid jargon, acronyms and highly technical terms.

Objectives

- Briefly state the explicit objectives of your proposed research.

Context

- Describe the originality, significance and expected contribution to knowledge of the proposed research.
- Situate the proposed research in the context of relevant scholarly literature.
- Describe the appropriateness of the theoretical approach or framework.
- Explain the potential influence and impact within and/or beyond the social sciences and humanities research community.
- **For emerging scholars only:** Explain the relationship and relevance of the proposed research to your ongoing research. If the proposal represents a significant change of direction from your previous research, describe how it relates to experiences and insights gained from earlier research achievements.

Methodology

- Describe the proposed research strategies and key activities, including methodological approaches and procedures for data collection and analysis, that will be used to achieve the stated objectives.
- Justify the choice of methodology and describe the specific instruments or procedures to be used.

Note: Contingency plans related to the potential impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on your research project may be described in this section, if appropriate. This is not mandatory, but it may assist the merit review committee in assessing the feasibility of your proposal if your research plans are significantly disrupted, e.g., if international travel is not possible.

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- The first section is important
 - Set readers up with a clear outline and get them interested
 - WHAT?
 - HOW?
 - EFFECT?



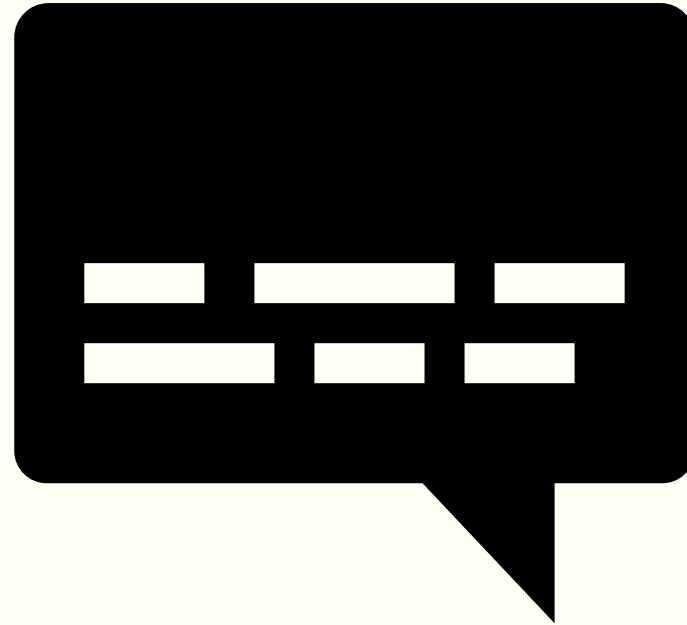
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- Clear aims/purpose that link to methods
 - 1. Determine the effect of the afterschool STEM program on students' with ASD STEM Aptitude, Perception, and Affinity
 - 2. Determine the impact of the afterschool STEM program on the social skills of students with ASD.
 - Methods
 - Match your methods to your budget (RA 1 will do...)
 - Insufficient detail / hard to follow = not successful.
 - Don't forget about analysis
 - Concrete evidence/examples
 - Budget
 - Essentially pass/fail. Justify everything in as much detail as you have space for and do not pad

Write for your audience

Be understandable even to those who know nothing about your work

Explain all terms and avoid jargon when possible.

Used terms must have meanings agreed upon by all in Education / Psych.



After writing

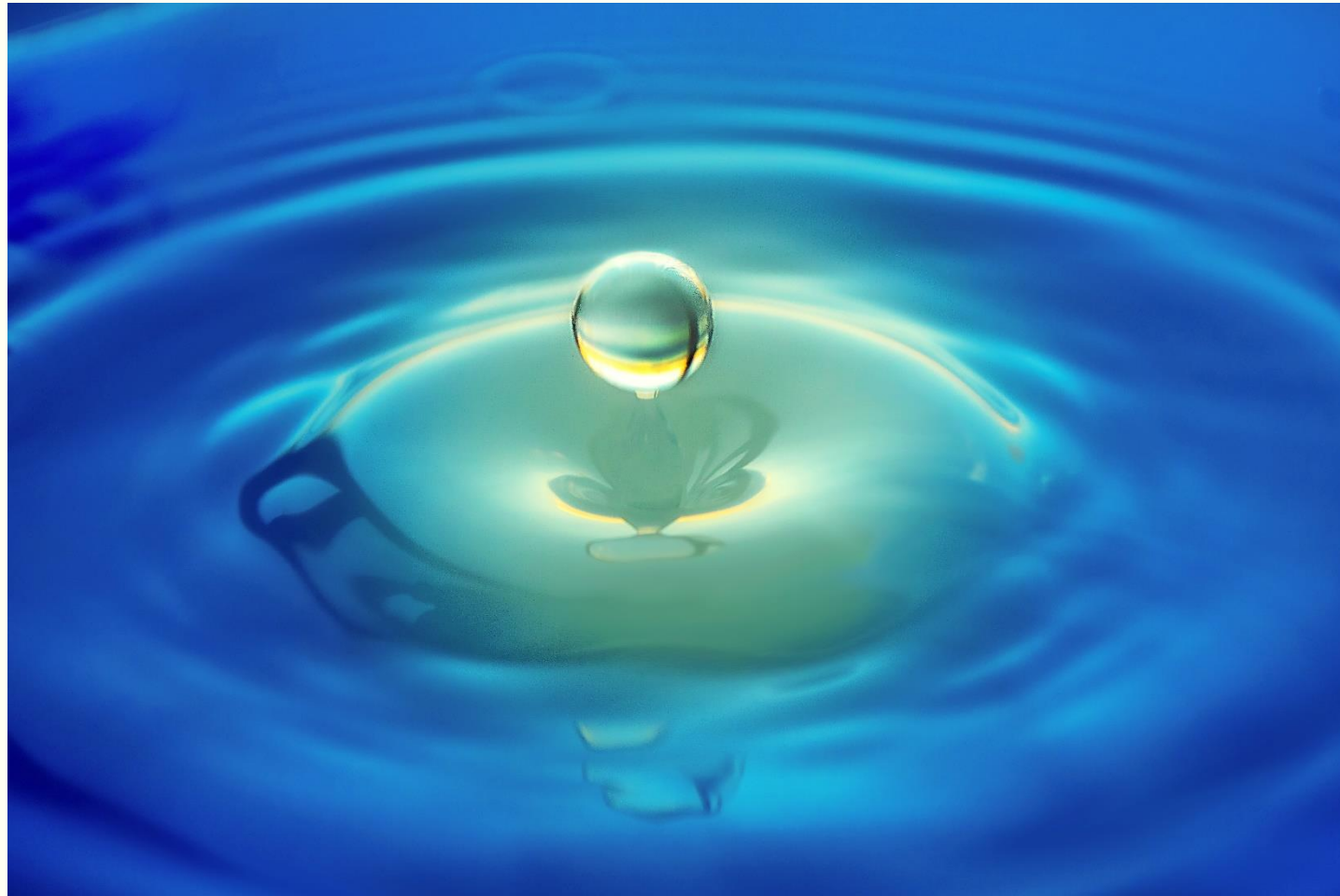


PEER REVIEW



KEEP APPLYING FOR
GRANTS.

Rita`s reflections on IDG – from failure to success



Rita's reflections

- Background preparation.
- Take your time.
- Ask colleagues to share their successful grant applications with you.
- Attend SSHRC presentations.
- Budget carefully.
- Ensure your theoretical framework and methodological approach make sense (not just to you!!!).
- Don't forget about the knowledge mobilization piece.

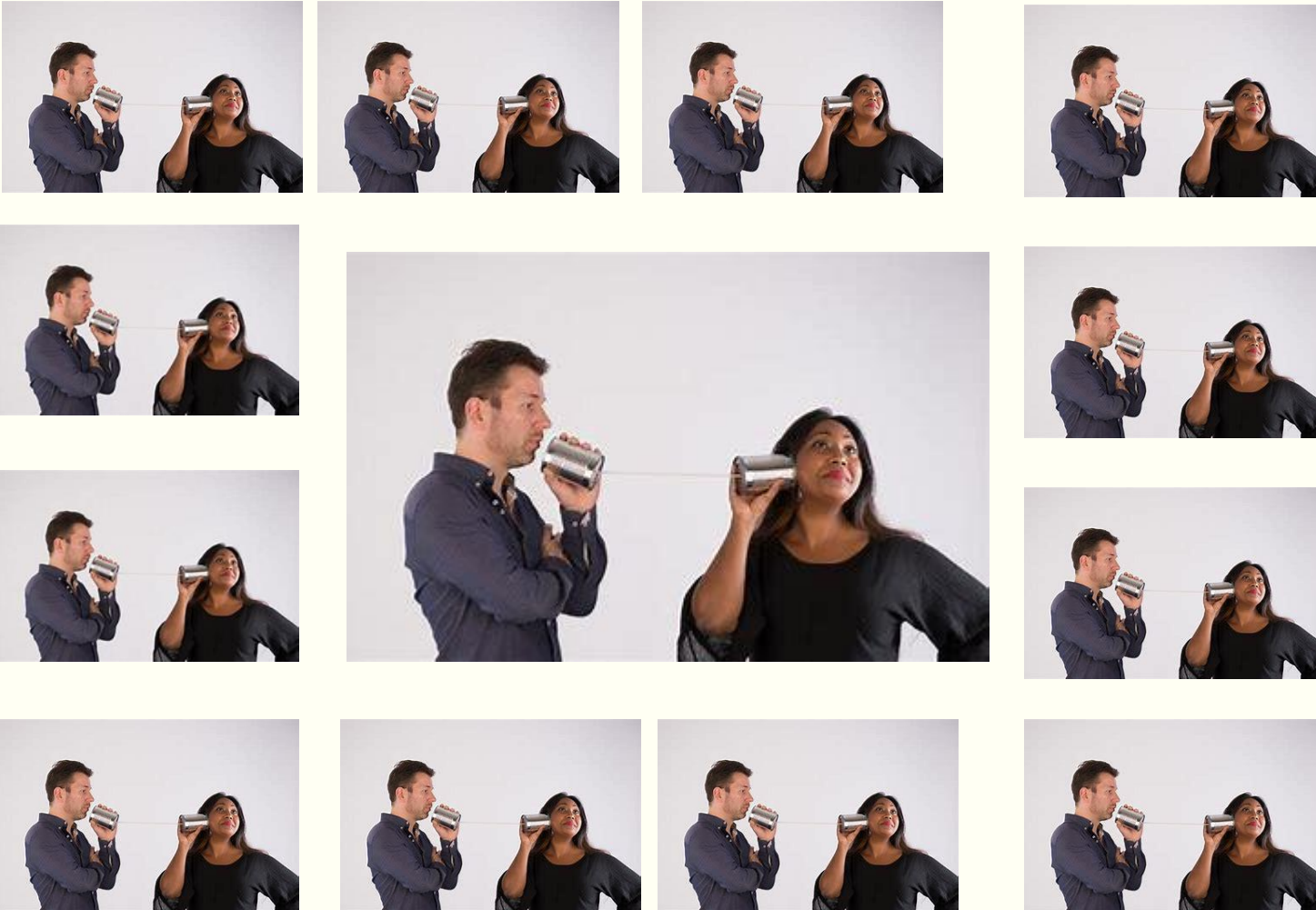


Rita's final reflections

- Don't let failure put you off.
- And never forget that, at the end of the day, success is all about telling a good story.



Adjudicator's Experience



Limited Time to share your proposal (~ 5 minutes)
10 minutes total discussion time.

Who is reading your Application?

- Two or Three Readers.
 - Experts in your panel (e.g., Education & Social Work)
 - **NOT** necessarily experts in your field
 - Could be primarily quantitative or qualitative researchers
 - Could have any language background, but must be able to adjudicate in English and French.
 - Are reading approximately 15 applications each.
 - Are using the rubric required by SSHRC very closely.

HOW CAN YOU HELP YOUR READERS PICK YOUR APPLICATION?


The Importance of Shaping your Message

▪ Proposal Summary

- Get your Readers Excited about your Research
 - Clear Research Question with anticipated Impact
 - Clear link between Research Question and Methodology
 - Clear plan on how to achieve success
- This is likely the section your reader will return to as a “refresher” on your proposal.

ACCESSIBILITY &
PERSUASIVENESS

▪ For Established Scholars

- Making a case for your new line of research.  Very Important Section
 - Explain how your research is different. Do not assume the reader will make the conceptual leap.
 - If the committee cannot see this is a novel project, your application automatically fails.

- The rest of your application needs to keep providing evidence in service to your message.

Scoring your Application

- Challenge—The aim and importance of the endeavour (50%)
- Feasibility—The plan to achieve excellence (20%):
- Capability—The expertise to succeed (30%):

Score	Descriptor
Excellent	1.83-1.00
Very good	2.67-1.84
Good	3.50-2.68
Satisfactory	4.33-3.51
Moderate	5.16-4.34
Unsatisfactory	6.00-5.17



Two separate pots of funds for Emerging and Established Researchers

Avoiding Red Flags & Hanging Threads

■ Red Flags

- Timeline does not seem feasible
- Sample size seems small
- Budget seems either too big or too small
- Methodology does not align with the research question
- Team members are lacking expertise
- Team members are lacking time to contribute to the project.
- Team members' roles are ill-defined
- Resources are not specified for knowledge mobilization.

■ Hanging Threads

- Terms, Theories, Frameworks are introduced but not defined
- Literature is introduced but its relevance is underspecified
 - Common mistake is to whet the reader's appetite but not provide enough information for the reader to understand the relevance. Better to remove it than leave it.
- Methodology is underspecified & reader cannot envision how the study will unfold.
- Links are not made between the research questions, methodology, analysis plan & expected outcomes.

