

# Grant Writing: Top Tips for research driven proposals

---



Associate Professor Julie Brown,  
Program Head, Injury, George Institute for Global Health, Australia



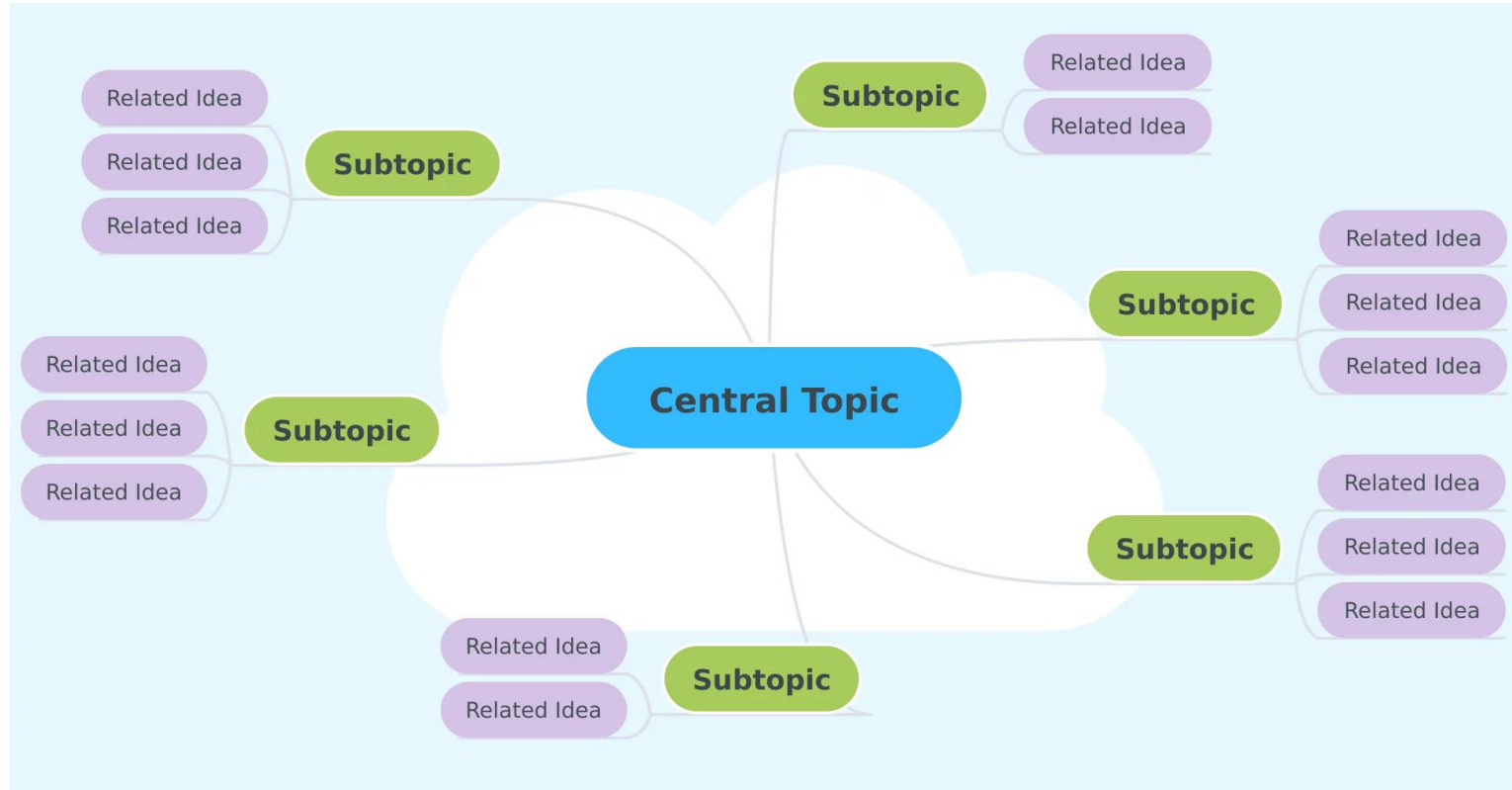
## Top tips – before you start writing

---

1. Get familiar with the selection criteria and criteria weighting
2. See what has been successful previously
3. Be clear in your own mind about the problem you are going to address (does this fit within the scope of the call?)
4. Focus on the ‘what’s new?’ and the ‘so what?’
5. Think through the methods you might use? (Do you have all the skills needed?)
6. Talk to collaborators you might include in your team (Don’t forget end-users)
7. Does what you are planning build on your previous work?
8. Start to map out a narrative

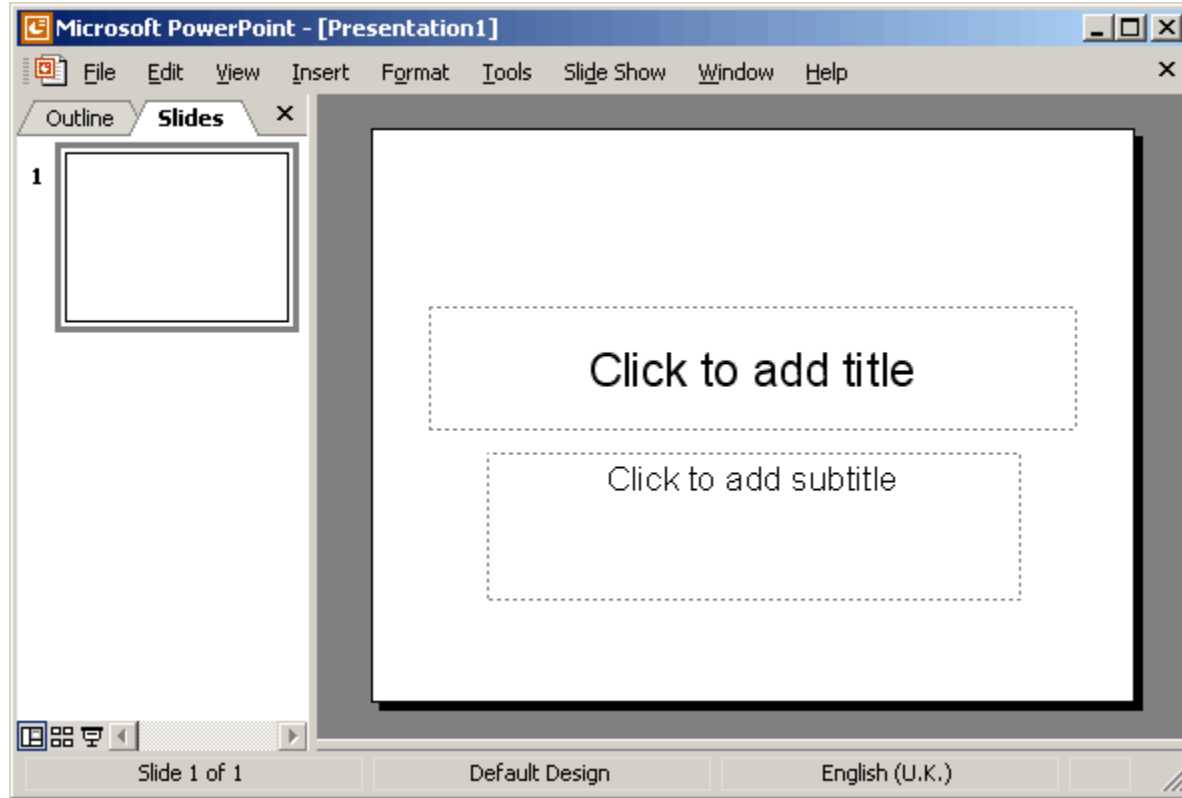


# Think through the narrative





# Think the through the narrative





## Top tips – before you start writing

---

1. Get familiar with the selection criteria and criteria weighting
2. See what has been successful previously
3. Be clear in your own mind about the problem you are going to address (does this fit within the scope of the call?)
4. Focus on the ‘what’s new?’ and the ‘so what?’
5. Think through the methods you might use? (Do you have all the skills needed?)
6. Talk to collaborators you might include in your team (Don’t forget end-users)
7. Does what you are planning build on your previous work?
8. Start to map out a narrative
9. Talk through your idea with others
10. If possible find an example or two of a successful grant



## Top tips – Writing

---

1. Start with a one-page summary that outlines your narrative & hits all selection criteria (Just for you and your team)
2. Articulate your main objective/aims- make these outcome focused rather than process focused (e.g., 'To determine' not 'to examine')
3. Build 'why you and your team best people to do this into background'
4. Only need enough detail in the background so reader understands what problem you are addressing, why its important, why you, why now, and likely outcomes
5. Keep the flow logical – and aligned with your narrative
6. Use clear, simple language
7. Methods you have enough detail that it is clear you know what you are doing and have thought things through
8. Beware of 'loose threads' – new ideas suddenly appearing out of nowhere
9. Rethink the narrative if its not working
10. Expect to write multiple drafts of you introduction and project description



## Top tips – Revising

---

1. Share your drafts with as many people as you can find
2. Get a wide variety of people to read
3. Listen to feedback
4. Think about the selection criteria – are you hitting everything?
5. Look for ‘loose threads’ and gaps in logic



## Top tips – After you've submitted

---

Take a break 😊

If you miss out

- Be ready to recycle ideas for other opportunities
- Revise and improve for next time

Unsuccessful grant application tend to be much better the second time around



# Summary

---



- Think everything through before you start writing
- Plan and write with selection criteria at front of mind
- Have a logical narrative running through the whole thing
- Be prepared to start over if logic not working
- Grant writing never a waste as plenty of opportunity for recycling
- Likes of things grants/research proposals only get better with age