As you read through the proposals, consider how they measure up to these criteria and to the Nursing Education Research Grant Proposal Review Rubric and make suggestions accordingly.

An exemplary research proposal contains:

- An interesting, focused beginning that captures the reader’s attention, clearly identifies the topic, and concludes with either a hypothesis or a research question that provides a strong guiding principle for the rest of the proposal

- Clear articulation of the topic; moving toward sophistication and complexity of approach to the topic, one which narrows a broad topic to a manageable scope

- Strong transitions between sentences and ideas, producing prose that is fluid and organic, with clear and logical structure, producing an overall sense of coherence in the proposal

- Use of clear, concrete language and examples to develop ideas; giving appropriate attention to detail

- Strong sense of audience, including an understanding of the readers’ values, assumptions, expectations, and level of expertise in the topic

- Strong control of style, language, word choice, diction, syntax, sentence structure, using consistent and authoritative voice in writing

- A strategic, powerful, and appropriate use of rhetoric appeals

- Effective use of source material (textual and visual as appropriate), which is integrated into the writer’s prose and argument, and is meticulously documented in proper citation form

- Attention to strategic and powerful proposal design with well-developed sections, creating a strong underlying structure for the proposal which contains the following:
Introduction with identification of links to NLN Research Priorities in Nursing Education; a background that cites literature which supports the need for this study; and cites related concepts or theory as a basis for the study.

A research method and sources section that includes specific examples of methodologies, and research strategies, explains the sampling approach, data collection and analysis plan, with rationales for the use of that particular research plan, research instruments.

Verification of human subject protection and IRB approval as appropriate.

A timeline which identifies a reasonable deadline for the research project, and plans for the dissemination of outcomes.

A conclusion that synthesizes earlier sections of the proposal while thoughtfully addressing broader implications of the research, (the "So what?" of the proposal).

A reference and/or bibliography as appropriate, in correct format (APA).

Additional peer review resources:


- Peer Review Quick Guide from the Faculty Development and Instructional Design Center of Northern Illinois University [http://ori.hhs.gov/education/products/niu_peerreview/](http://ori.hhs.gov/education/products/niu_peerreview/)

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