

Specific Aims

(0.5 - 1 inch margins; Arial font; size 11; 1 page limit)

First Paragraph

Overview: Introduce the topic. Show that you know what is happening in your field and you have identified something missing. Speak in laymen's terms. You are speaking to an educated non-expert audience.

Opening sentence

Capture my attention. Interesting and new information (not common knowledge) that will make me want to read more. What is the problem? Why is this a problem?

Current knowledge

What is known? What are the issues? What do they need to know about the problem to understand that your project will be necessary?

- Knowledge 1
- Knowledge 2
- Knowledge 3

Gap

What is missing from that knowledge above?

Statement of Need and Consequences of not meeting that need

What is needed to fill that gap? What happens if you do not fill that gap? Clearly demonstrate that your project solves the problem. What are the consequences of not doing this project?

- Consequence 1
- Consequence 2

Make sure your project will fulfill the NIH's mission to "enhance health, lengthen life, and reduce illness and disability" or use your specific institute's language (NIDDK, NICHD, etc.).

Second Paragraph

Overview: What is likely to come from this study that isn't possible now? What are the long-term and immediate benefits of this research? What do you think you will find?

Long-term goal

What will this research lead to for the future? What research/progress can come from this study? How will you build on this? What are you hoping to create?

Our **long-term goal** is:

Objective

What is the objective of **this** specific study? How are you going to solve the problem that you described above? Does it link to your long-term goal?

Our **objective** is to:

Central Hypothesis

You presented the problem; what do you think you will find? Use your preliminary data to support you here. Can use other published works that support your hypothesis.

Our **central hypothesis** is that:

We will test this (these) hypothesis(es) by performing the following aims:

Third Paragraph Specific Aims

Overview: You are explaining what needs to happen to achieve your objective. This will be listed with numbers or labelled Aim 1, Aim 2... NIH does not allow more than 4 aims.

Aim 1: Brief, attention-getting statement of what you are testing. "Why" is the question here (not how it will be done). For example: Explore the casual links between... Determine the association between...Explore the experiences of...Followed by the hypothesis (if applicable). Why is this is what you need to test to reach your objective and long-term goals

The working hypothesis for this aim is:

Aim 2-"

Aim 3-"

Fourth Paragraph

This is the payoff paragraph. Last chance to convince the reader that your project matters and that it will increase health, advance your field, and will have a lasting impact.

Expected outcomes

Make sure the outcomes you are promising are achievable and related to the aims, objective, and long-term goal you mentioned. Convince the reader of the positive impact your research will have. How will your study “enable vertical advancement” in your area of study?

- How will this advance your field 1?
- How will this advance your field 2?

End with how it will to “enhance health, lengthen life, and reduce illness and disability”.

Checking Alignment before you begin

