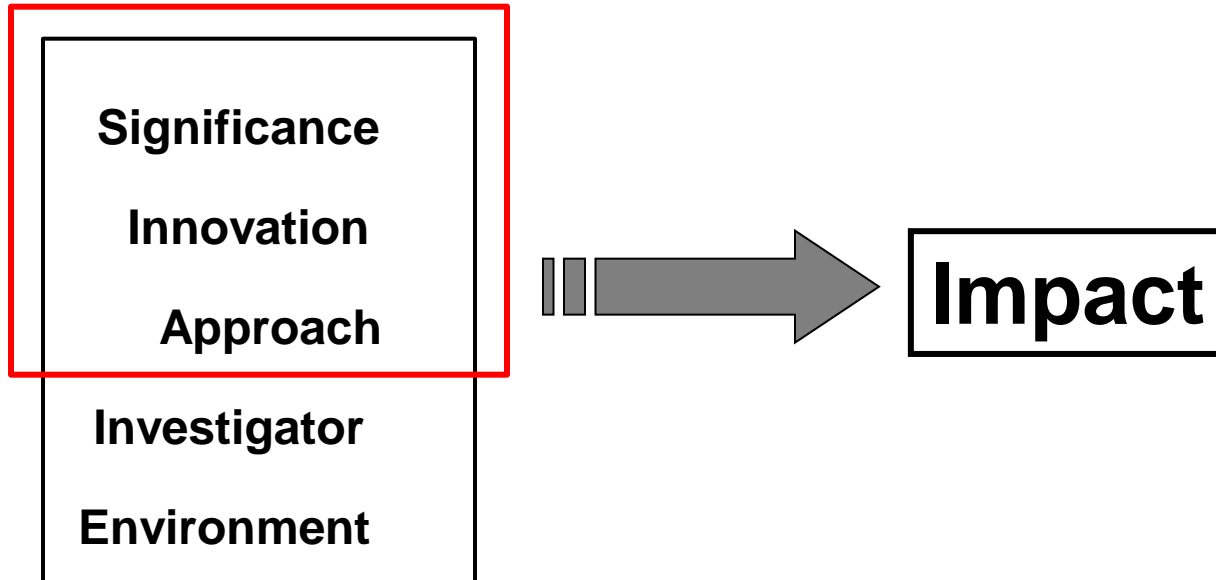


New NIH Review Criteria



Goals of the change:

- More emphasis on impact: *is the research worth doing?*
- Less emphasis on technical details (how to 'do' the research)

Significance of the topic: *what does the outcome of your proposal bring to the field?*

- Does your proposal address an important problem or critical barrier to progress in your field? Broader implications?
- If the aims are achieved, what scientific knowledge will be gained?

Innovation: *what is novel about your proposal?*

- Novelty can be reflected in any aspect of the proposal: concepts/ hypotheses, development of new models, approach, methods, etc
- Can include refinements, adaptations of existing techniques
- Innovation is not always essential

Approach: *what are you going to do?*

- **Approach is important!**
- Must be appropriate, rigorous, feasible
- Do not need to include minutiae

Significance of the topic: *what does the outcome of your proposal bring to the field?*

- If the aims are achieved, what scientific knowledge will be gained?

Impact: “so what?”

- Probability that the outcome of your proposal will exert a sustained, powerful influence on the field
- Incremental *versus* transformative?

Overall Impact Score

Impact	Score	Descriptor	Strengths/Weaknesses
High Impact	1	Exceptional	Strengths Weaknesses
	2	Outstanding	
	3	Excellent	
Moderate Impact	4	Very Good	
	5	Good	
	6	Satisfactory	
Low Impact	7	Fair	
	8	Marginal	
	9	Poor	