Paragraph 1. Should include an opening sentence. Follow with 3 – 5 sentences of current knowledge. A sentence on the gap in that knowledge. End with a statement of ‘need’ (why this research).

Second paragraph should present the who, what and why. Start with the long-term goal (i.e., beyond this research project). Then present overall objectives (1 sentence). Follow with the central hypothesis for the project. This is backed up but 1-2 sentences of how you got to this hypothesis (preliminary data?). Then end with a sentence on the rationale. This should segue in to the specific aims.

**Specific Aim 1: XXXXXXXXX.** Present each specific aim as a numbered bullet. Describe your rationale and working hypothesis for the aim. Provide one or two short sentences on how you will test that hypothesis (or address aim).

**Specific Aim 2: XXXXXXXXX.** Present each specific aim as a numbered bullet. Describe your rationale and working hypothesis for the aim. Provide one or two short sentences on how you will test that hypothesis (or address aim).

**Specific Aim 3: XXXXXXXXX.** Present each specific aim as a numbered bullet. Describe your rationale and working hypothesis for the aim. Provide one or two short sentences on how you will test that hypothesis (or address aim).

Last paragraph is the ‘pay off’ statement. This should be 2 – 3 sentences that offer expected outcomes, positive impacts, and importance.