Notes From Faculty-Student Discussions on Writing Grant Proposals

Writing Style:
1. Pay special attention to the first sentence and the first paragraph; these should convey what the research is about and why it is important.

2. Construct strong topic sentences for each paragraph.

3. Be very clear about the objectives and significance of your research; summarise and restate these whenever you can.

4. Be explicit -- don't hide behind jargon.

5. Be direct -- don't use too many qualifiers.

6. Use headings/subheadings to divide sections of longer essays; these organise your work and make it easier to read the essay.

7. Follow instructions carefully. Be aware of all guidelines as to what should and shouldn't be included on an application form.

8. Don't force your answers to fit on a form -- be sure that typing margins are respected.

9. Make sure that the budget and CV are detailed and properly presented.

10. Add as appendices any letters to/from contacts you are making in preparation for your fieldwork.

Approach:
1. Realise that writing proposals is different from other kinds of writing and is something everyone in the discipline has to learn to do.

2. Get started early so that you can do revisions.

3. Put together one proposal containing all of the above. (cont. on pg 4)
A lively collection of witchcraft activities you can try on your friends and family. Includes diagrams.

The Raw Over the Cooked: Learning to Like Sushi, Claude Streuss.
This book explores techniques for overcoming repulsion for raw fish. Given the "Best Book Award" by the Anti-Teriyaki League in 1962.

Blowing Up Samsa: Confessions of a Terrorist, Margie Meade.

Put Down Man: Inferiority Complexes Among Neanderthals, Dodge Dartt.
Human fossil, Dodge Dartt, speculates about psychological problems among our earliest ancestors.

H.C.

HAPPY READING EVERYONE

NYU JOURNAL

Volume 2 of the New York University Journal of Anthropology is now available. It can be purchased on the 9th floor of 25 Waverly Place for $2. Papers are being sought for Volume 3 from graduate students of any university and any field provided that the papers are of a research nature and contribute to increasing knowledge in any of the sub-fields of anthropology. The journal is designed to provide an outlet for graduate students to share aspects of their research with fellow students and faculty, and to facilitate the publication of ideas deriving from larger, ongoing research projects. Papers should be submitted to Heidi Knecht or Anne Pike Tay, Coordinating Editors, NYU Journal of Anthropology, Department of Anthropology, 25 Waverly Place.

-H. Knecht
Grant Writing

1. Your material and then use this as a master copy for other cut-down versions.

2. Build a convincing argument as to why your research needs to be done.

3. Write in such a way that scholars at the periphery of your field will understand you.

4. Always get comments from several, not necessarily "nice" advisors/collaborators before submitting an application.

5. Find research you want to do and try to isolate research that is not only interesting, but needs to be done.

6. Submit your application again if rejected -- it could be accepted in a second evaluation.

7. Submit applications to as many organizations as you can.

8. Through preliminary trips or contacts with others, find out all you can about conditions in the field so that you can devise a realistic budget and proposal.

9. Call grant agency offices if specific questions arise.

10. Find out whether reviewers are in your field and what kinds of grants have been funded in the past.

11. Try to understand what earlier theorists were trying to accomplish when you critique them and avoid a condescending tone.

12. Remember: aim for clarity/feasibility/credibility. Be realistic and thoughtful and try not to propose the impossible.

Grant Proposals

15. Share your trials and tribulations with others and keep at it!

-Hildi Hendrikson

Comprehensive Exams: Some Practical Guidelines for Avoiding Despair

1. Construct your three reading lists as if you were preparing each as a course outline; include important topics in the subject as well as more specific issues/controversies.

2. Subdivide and outline each list in order to organize them.

3. Look for connections and contributions: try to see where authors (literature) belong historically in the discipline.

4. Don't expect to be tested on your research specifically; the exam should allow you to demonstrate your broad knowledge of the literature on your reading lists.

5. No two exams will be exactly alike; the guidelines pertaining to the construction of reading lists and exams are kept flexible so that each student's interests can be accommodated.

6. Exam questions may or may not be discussed beforehand depending on your committee. A choice of questions is usually given however.

7. Organize your studying by developing practice questions which you can discuss with your advisors ask your advisors for practice questions if you think it will help.

8. Gather your whole committee together at least once before your exams so that you can talk over the reading lists as a group; ask your main advisor to help you set up these meetings.

9. Consult the GSAS bulletin and the departmental Ph.D. guidelines for other important information on procedures.

(The above notes are based on a student-faculty meeting and were compiled by H. Hendrikson.)
AGSA Report

Several members of the Anthropology Department have attended GSAS student council meetings during the last year. Hannah Davis, Patience Freeman, Susan Gilbert, Hildi Hendrikson and Elisha Renne have variously attended these meetings. Topics addressed this year include a change in the NYU calendar, questions about the new tax laws and tuition remission fellowships, and questions about graduate student health insurance.

As an active member of the GSAS student council, AGSA (Anthropology Graduate Student Association) received funds from the Office of Student Affairs. AGSA received a flat grant of $144.80 for Fall '86, and received a flat grant of $136.80 and a supplemental grant of $190.00 for Spring '87. This money has been used for February "Friday the 13th Party," sponsorship of a joint-showing of anthropological/historical films, mailings and the AGSA lecture series. Residual funds are being used to provide refreshments at the AGSA "End of the year Party" to be held on Friday, May 29th in RM 213, 25 Waverly Place. —E. Renne

END OF THE YEAR PARTY

AGSA
FRIDAY MAY 29TH, 3 P.M.
25 WAVERLY PLACE, RM 213
EVERYONE WELCOME
REFRESHMENTS

The NYUER
Design and Production: Hilary Cunningham
Contributors: Elisha Renne
Hildi Hendrikson
Heidi Knecht
Hilary Cunningham
Graphics: Hilary Cunningham

HAVE A GOOD SUMMER!