SUMMARY

SUM·MA·RY

/ˈsəmərē/

NOUN

A BRIEF STATEMENT OR ACCOUNT OF THE MAIN POINTS OF SOMETHING.
THE BIG PICTURE

Engaging, reader onside, not frustrated, innovative, creative
SUMMARIES

Grant Agency – summary for committee (scientist but not your field)

Grant Agency – lay summary for public

Grant Agency – summary for press

Press Release Summary

HREB – lay summary

Summary of research completed.

Not an abstract!

KNOW YOUR AUDIENCE
AVOID A BLACK EYE
All eyes are on you!

We use the summary to identify the reviewer!

We use the summary to get a sense of your overall competence.
NO SECOND IMPRESSIONS

Summaries set the tone for the reader

Summaries may be the only element of a grant read by all.

Ten “attaboys” are needed to cover one “ah sh*t”
SCIENTIFIC STORY TELLING

1. Doing the next logical step

2. Filling a gap

3. Resolving a controversy

Write the summary based upon category above
- Middle paragraph should lead the reader to your purpose
- The purpose should not be a slap in the face!
- Will the design be adequate to answer question?
WHO ARE YOU?

Essential to believe in yourself and grant.
Are you a?

A rising star
  - trajectory

A bright star

A star of an important constellation
REPRESENTING

Under-representation
  selling the holy grail
  creative and innovative, impact

Over-representation
  ambition is rewarded
  over-ambition is penalized

Misrepresentation
  - didn’t know I was lying
  - lying
TO DO & NOT TO DO

NO JARGON

Match the mandate of the agency!

EXCESSIVE WORDS – remove redundant statements

THICK AND RICH BUT with white space
- don’t jam in all in

DO THE WORDS CONVEY THE INTENDED MEANING?

INVALID TEST
- Having someone like-minded read and smile & nod

VALID TEST
- A lay person or scientist without topical knowledge reading it and paraphrasing back (and they are NEVER WRONG!).
KISSES AND DEATH

Don’t sow a thorny bush – we all see it at committee!

Do-ability and wherewithal – can you do it!

KT or not? If KT do it well.

Contradiction and clarity

Sloppiness – haste makes waste

Coherence – author

Opportunity to “add” to grant application
13. Summaries are More Important than You Might Think. CIHR website extract.

As part of the application process, you are required to summarize your project in various ways (i.e., a "Lay Abstract" and a "Summary of Research Proposal"). While it may be tempting to give these summaries short shrift, given all of the other tasks you must complete, they are among the most important parts of your application.

In the current process, the peer review committee members use the “Summary of the Research Proposal” to determine whether or not they have the appropriate level of expertise to review the application. For the current Open Operating Grants Program, the summary submitted with the Registration is also used to place the application in the most appropriate peer review committee by comparing its content to the mandates of the peer review committees, in discussion with the committee Chair and Scientific Officer.

In addition, for strategic competitions, the "Summary of the Research Proposal" may be used to determine whether or not your proposal is relevant to the strategic areas of the funding opportunity. (If your proposal is determined to be “not relevant” your application will be withdrawn from the competition.)

Make sure that the "Summary of the Research Proposal" provides: a concise account of the subject matter; an overview of each part of the research plan; specific project aims and the methodology. The summary should reflect the significance of your project as well as its alignment with the relevant research areas of a strategic initiative.

If your research project is determined to be of interest to the general public, the "Lay Abstract" is published on CIHR’s website and it may also be shared with the media. The "Lay Abstract" should be written in plain language so that the general public will understand the nature of your research project.

Finally, you might consider summarizing often throughout your proposal to wrap up key points or complex ideas, in order to make it easier for the reviewers to follow your train of thought.