

Writing a
one page
project
idea

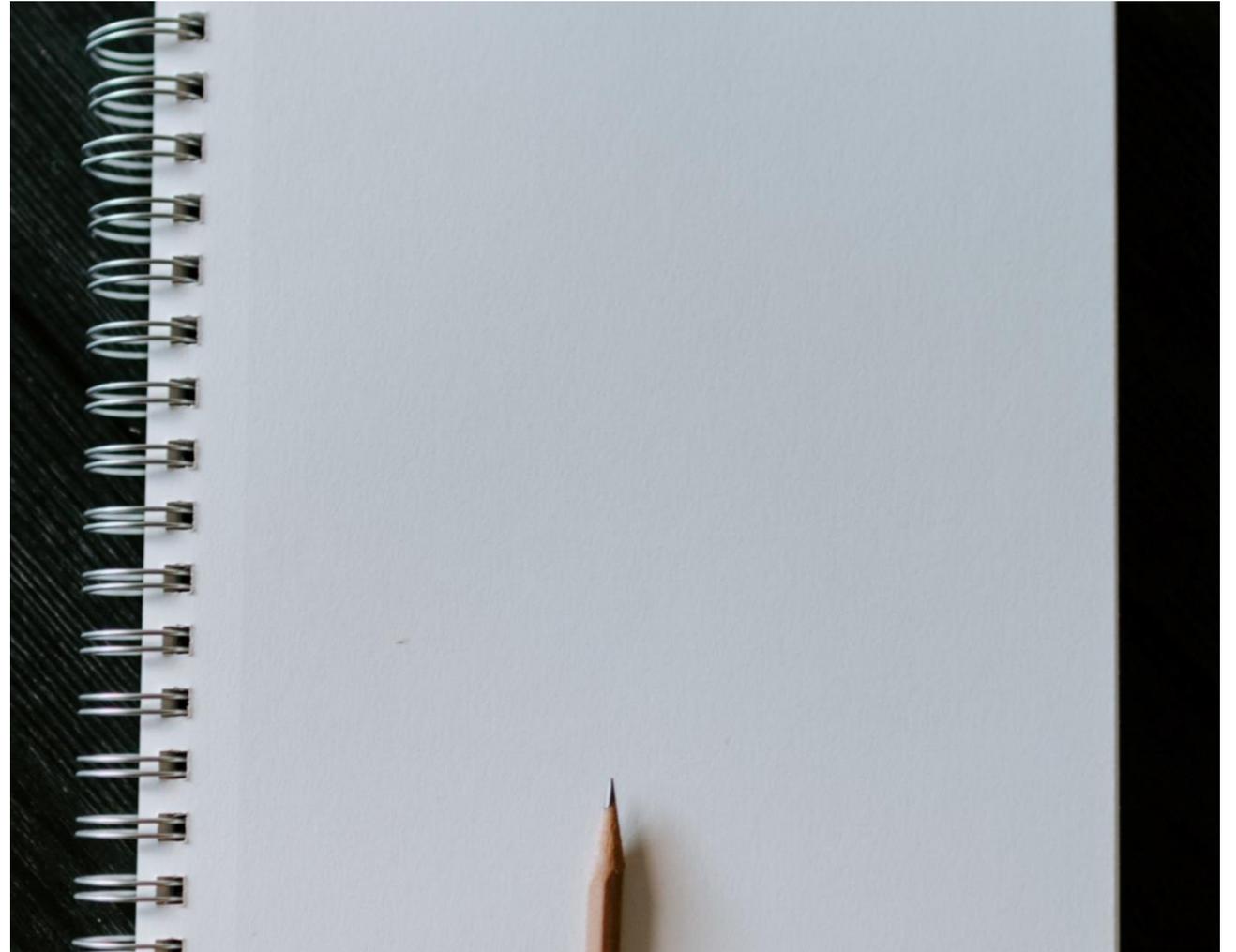


Going from a blank page to a one page project idea

Committing a project idea onto the page can be a challenge.

Based on the writing of a series of key sentences in a specific framework, here is one method of converting your thoughts into an effective written narrative.

Once complete, the one page project idea can be expanded upon to develop a clear, well-structured project proposal.



The key sentences framework

Your completed one page project idea will follow this six part structure...

1

Overall statement of what the project will achieve

2

Why it is important to solve the problem

3

Core project aims
(three to five of these)

4

Project overview

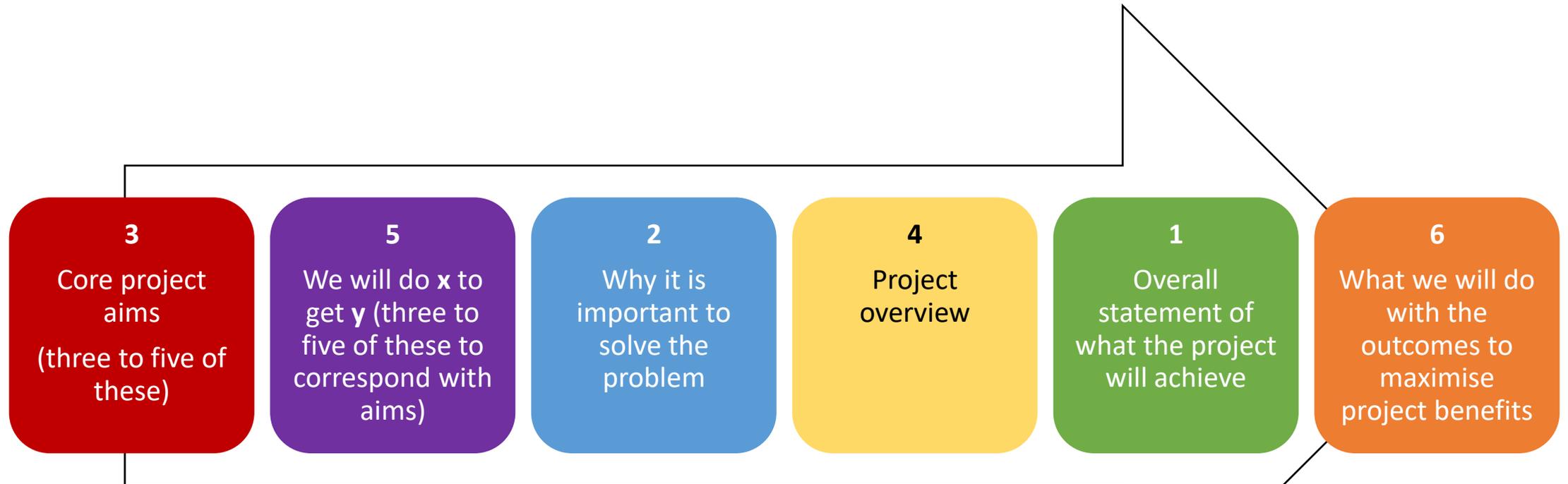
5

We will do x to get y
(three to five of these to correspond with aims)

6

What we will do with the outcomes to maximise project benefits

... but it is important that you draft the parts out of sequence before re-ordering them at the end



*To help with writing and re-ordering, you may find it useful to write out each part on a separate piece of paper or section in a table so that you can physically move them around or copy/paste them into the right order at the end.

Write your core
project aims first

Here's an example:

“We need to identify which molecules
in this family are most effective as
reversible inactivators of brain tissue”

3. Core project aims

- (three to five of these)

Next, what you will do to meet your aims

These are the method(s) you will use to achieve your aims.

Here's an example:

“We will use voltage sensitive dyes to assess the activity and responsiveness of brain slices in order to measure the efficacy of different molecules as reversible inactivators of neural activity”

5. We will do X to get Y

- (three to five of these to correspond with aims)

Now make clear why this issue is one that must be addressed

For example:

“Stroke is one of the commonest causes of death and disability in the working population; One of the most promising new avenues of treatment is to shut down brain function reversibly using a metabolic inhibitor but we have yet to identify a suitable molecule”

2. Why it is important to solve the problem

Next, the overview

For example:

“The proposed project will be a mixture of synthetic chemistry to produce candidate molecules and in vitro physiology to test their efficacy in producing reversible inactivation of brain slices in order to identify a potential treatment for stroke”

4. Project overview

Then a summary of
the expected outcome

For example:

“This project will develop a new potential treatment for stroke by identifying, synthesising and testing suitable molecules from a family of novel synthetic metabolic inhibitors that we have discovered”

1. Overall
statement of what
the project will
achieve

Lastly, a statement of your impact.

How are you going to disseminate your outputs?

6. What we will do with the outcomes to maximise project benefits

Now that all the parts are written, we re-order them into the final sequence ready for drafting into a cohesive narrative document.

Here's our example after re-ordering:

1	This project will develop a new potential treatment for stroke by identifying, synthesising and testing suitable molecules from a family of novel synthetic metabolic inhibitors that we have discovered
2	Stroke is one of the commonest causes of death and disability in the working population; One of the most promising new avenues of treatment is to shut down brain function reversibly using a metabolic inhibitor but we have yet to identify a suitable molecule
3	We need to identify which molecules in this family are most effective as reversible inactivators of brain tissue
4	The proposed project will be a mixture of synthetic chemistry to produce candidate molecules and in vitro physiology to test their efficacy in producing reversible inactivation of brain slices in order to identify a potential treatment for stroke
5	We will use voltage sensitive dyes to assess the activity and responsiveness of brain slices in order to measure the efficacy of different molecules as reversible inactivators of neural activity
6	Dissemination of outputs statement

You're done!

As you write your subsequent drafts, and perhaps your full proposal, remember that the key sentences you started with should be pushed towards the front of your proposal sections. This is because they will be some of the most impactful sentences in your proposal and very effective at quickly engaging the reviewer and conveying the logical narrative thread that runs all the way through your proposal.



Further support

We hope that you found this session on writing a one page project idea useful.

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