

Additional Comments to Applicant Box

As an NIH reviewer, your written critique should focus on evaluating the scientific and technical merit of an application and not on helping the applicant rewrite the application. But what if you desire to provide some information or tips to the applicant? The **Additional Comments to Applicant** box is designed just for that purpose.

Your comments in this box should not be about the scientific or technical merit of an application; do not factor into the final impact score; are not binding; and do not represent a consensus by the review panel. But this type of information may be useful to an applicant.

Examples of comments to provide applicants:

Information that Might Be Useful for New or Early Stage Investigators

The application creates the impression that the New Investigator is rather isolated intellectually. It appears that s/he would benefit from mentorship and interactions outside of his/her institution. These should be available locally.

This application is overly ambitious . . . a common mistake for junior investigators. This investigator would be wise to develop fewer aims more thoroughly. It's always risky to base subsequent aims on the outcome of the first one.

Comments that Might Help Applicants with Non Discussed Applications

For such a talented investigator, his/her time would be better spent on a more compelling research question. I do not recommend revising and resubmitting this application.

The applicant should write a smaller grant focused on gathering sufficient preliminary data

Notes That Alert an Applicant to Grant Writing Issues

This application is frustrating to read because of extensive jargon that is not defined and experiments that aren't connected to specific aims. A thorough rewrite with the help of an experienced grant writer is suggested before this application is resubmitted.

Ideas that Might Be Helpful for an Applicant to Consider

It would be interesting to see the investigator try the new technique of XYZ et al. on their samples. One might expect much better resolution.

The abc mutant phenotype is remarkably similar to that described for these new loss of function strains. Has the investigator thought about whether these mutations are in the abc pathway?