

Views from Panel / Panelists

- Disclaimer
 - Free advice: **probably not good** advice
 - Some methods work for some people, not for others
 - Nothing magical, just **common sense**
 - “Everybody gets so much information all day long that they lose their common sense.” (Gertrude Stein)

Panelist composition

- Who is your audience?
- Depending on areas
 - My last panel: 75% academics, 25% industry or industry research consortia or other government agencies (e.g. DARPA)
 - Two NSF program directors
 - Several proposals cross over program boundaries

Common issues (1)

- Project Summary
 - Critical first impression
 - every panelist reads this 1-page summary
 - Avoid rambling
 - Should be substantial description of Intellectual Merit, not introductory statements to the field
 - “Transformative”
 - Even more important in CAREER proposals

Common issues (2)

- Broader impact
 - Mostly web posting of materials, curriculum creation, REU: typical, boring
 - Do something exciting and different and substantial: active summer workshops with URM high schools, go to tribal reservations (instead of bringing them to UW) and work with students there, etc.
 - Does not really sell the proposal but does help strengthen it, especially with borderline proposals