**Before Submission:**

Get an external review BEFORE submission.

Speak to your program officer first.

You can request that your proposal be put before a particular panel.

There may be more than one panel for your proposal.

Ask your program officer if they will be present at the review meeting. Follow up with the program officer after the review.

Write a STRONG cover letter to indicate which panel should be reviewing your proposal

Use HEADINGS - these should match the sections that you are being scored on.

It's important that you identify a statistician and that person is on site, even better if they are named with a percentage of effort.

**After review:**

Respond to the feedback

Have someone else look at your feedback

Be persistent