

GRASP SCORING GUIDE

Summary

- Reviewers will critically evaluate and score specific applications assigned to them. (You are encouraged to review and score additional applications in this collection, if you are able.)
- The GRASP scoring system uses a 9-point scale (1 through 9). Use only whole numbers (no decimal ratings).
- A score of 1 indicates an exceptionally strong application with essentially no weaknesses. A score of 9 indicates an application with serious and substantive weaknesses and very few strengths. A score of 5 is considered average.
- Scores of 1 or 9 should be used less frequently than the others.
- Use this scale to score the five individual Review Criteria (i.e., Significance, Investigator(s), Innovation, Approach and Environment, and the Overall Impact score).
- For each Review Criterion notable strengths and weaknesses of the application should be described in a few sentences. These comments are essential and will be reported to the applicant.

Scoring the Review Criteria and Overall Impact

- Before the review meeting, primary and secondary reviewers will submit five Review Criteria scores, an Overall Impact score, and critiques for each application specifically assigned to them. (Critiques should help applicants understand the strengths and weaknesses of their proposals.)
- Reviewers will provide an Overall Impact score to reflect their assessment of the likelihood for the project to exert a sustained, powerful influence on the research field(s).
- The Overall Impact score should reflect the reviewer's overall evaluation, not simply an average the five Criterion Scores. Indeed, the five Review Criteria will typically have different weights. (Significance and Innovation will often have a greater influence on the Overall Impact than the other Review Criteria.)
- The Overall Impact score should balance the strengths and weaknesses noted in the five Review Criteria (e.g., a major strength may outweigh several minor or correctable weaknesses).
- An application need not be strong in every category to be judged likely to have a major impact (e.g., a project that by its nature is not innovative may be essential to advance a field).
- A reviewer may give only moderate scores for several Review Criteria but still give a high Overall Impact score because the one Review Criterion most important to the research is rated highly; conversely, several high Review Criterion ratings do not require that the Overall Impact be high.
- Reviewers are advised to use the full 1-9 scoring range and spread their scores for the individual Review Criteria and the Overall Impact to better discriminate among applications. Refer to the scoring descriptors (below).

- The overall Impact Score is based on each individual reviewer’s assessment based on the Review Criteria, the panel discussion and additional factors.
- All review panel members (other than those with conflicts of interest) will submit Review Criterion scores and Overall Impact scores privately at the end of the discussion of each application at the review meeting.
- The Chairperson of the review panel will ensure that all opinions are expressed before final scoring occurs.
- Assigned reviewers may adjust their individual Criteria Scores or Impact Score based on new information or insights provided during the review meeting.
- Reviewers are free to assign Overall Impact scores lower or higher than the range used by the assigned reviewers if they have a reasonable basis for doing so.
- After the review meeting, scores from all panel members will be averaged and the result multiplied by 10 to determine the final impact score which will be from 10 (best) through 90 (poorest).

Scoring Descriptors

Impact	Score	Descriptor	Additional Guidance on Strengths and Weaknesses
High	1	Exceptional	Exceptionally strong with essentially no weaknesses
	2	Outstanding	Extremely strong with negligible weaknesses
	3	Excellent	Very strong with only some minor weaknesses
Medium	4	Very Good	Strong but with numerous minor weaknesses
	5	Good	Strong but with at least one moderate weakness
	6	Satisfactory	Some strengths but also some moderate weaknesses
Low	7	Fair	Some strengths by with at least one major weakness
	8	Marginal	A few strengths and a few major weakness
	9	Poor	Very few strengths and numerous major weaknesses
Additional Scoring Information			
<p>Non-numeric scores: CF = Conflict of Interest; AB = Abstention</p> <p>Minor Weakness: An easily addressable weakness that does not substantially lessen impact</p> <p>Moderate Weakness: A weakness that lessens impact</p> <p>Major Weakness: A weakness that severely lessens impact</p>			