

UW ROYALTY RESEARCH FUND (RRF)

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ROADMAP

-  The basics: RRF objectives and eligibility
-  Review process and review criteria
-  Preparing the proposal
-  Tips for a successful proposal
-  Submitting the proposal
-  Decisions
-  Dr. Kate Stovel, RRF Program Chair; UW Professor of Sociology

THE BASICS

Mission

 > UW Research > Office of Research Central > Royalty Research Fund (RRF)

<https://www.washington.edu/research/or/royalty-research-fund-rrf/>

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“...to **advance new directions in research**, particularly:

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and/or (3) for in cases where funding may **increase applicants' competitiveness for subsequent funding**



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- **Bridge** funding for lapses between external funds
(Bridge Funding program services this purpose)

THE BASICS



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Scholar vs. Standard RRF

- **Standard:** Up to 2 months summer salary total
- **Scholar:** One quarter teaching release

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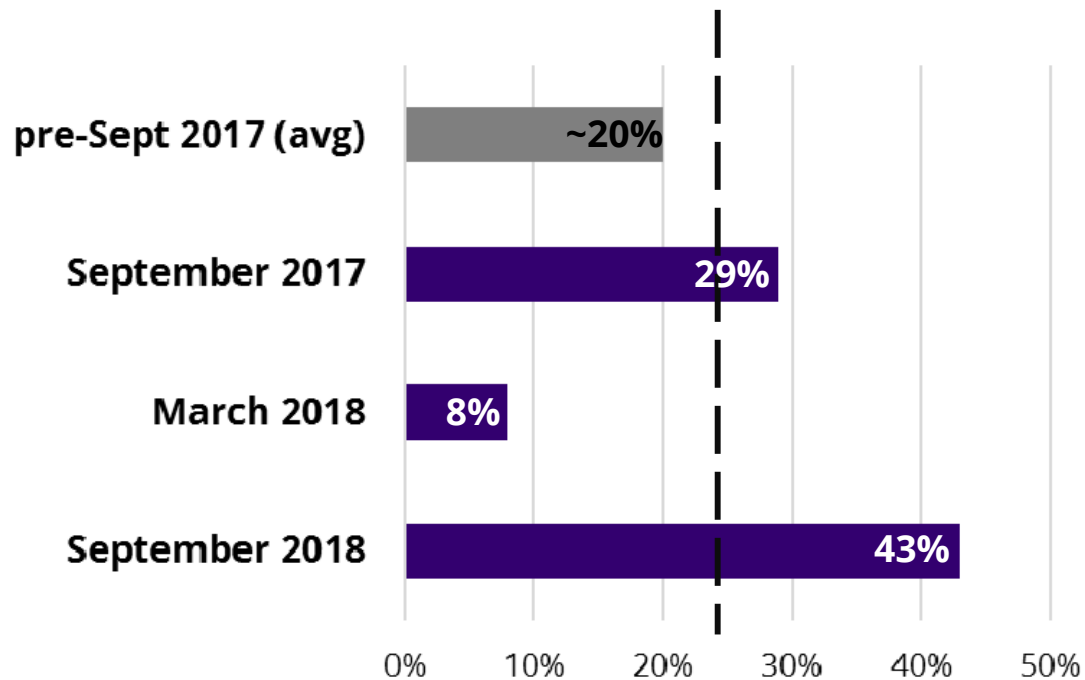
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- **RRF Scholars:**
 - Must teach at least (4) “standard” course/year (i.e. per your contract)
 - Cannot be paid during sabbatical leave

THE BASICS

Broad Funding Patterns

- Average tri-campus award rate = **26%** [range = 23-28%]
- Tacoma average (last three rounds): **23%**



REVIEW PROCESS

Step 1: Proposal assigned to one of 3 review committees

**Physical Sciences &
Engineering**

**Basic Biological &
Biomedical Sciences**

**Arts, Humanities &
Social Science**

RRF Program Committee Chair
Professor Kate Stovel, UW Sociology

REVIEW PROCESS

Each staffed with 11-16 UW faculty from relevant disciplines, for example (spring 2018):

Physical Sciences & Engineering

Chemistry
Engineering
Physics
Oceanography
Earth Sciences

Basic Biological & Biomedical Sciences

Microbiology
Biology
Environmental Health
Nursing
Psychiatry

Arts, Humanities & Social Science

Sociology
Asian Languages/Lit
Economics
Urban Studies
Gender Studies
Communication
History
American Ethnic Studies
Global Health
Political Science

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- Assigned based on self-selection, expertise/discipline
- Conflicts of interest avoided
- A second committee member reviews proposal, but does not score it (serves as a ‘tie breaker’)

REVIEW PROCESS

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- Reviewers remain anonymous (PI does not)

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Step 5: Top scored proposals discussed in committee

- Proposals in which quantitative score not consistent with qualitative reviews also discussed
- Committee discusses/calibrates reviews
- 2nd committee member may provide feedback here

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Step 5: Top scored proposals discussed in committee

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Step 6: Committee selects proposals and allocates awards

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Primary Criterion: Merit

- Scored on (4) criteria – scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent)

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 - #3: “**Utility or relevance** of the research” ← **Applied Research**
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 - #4: “Effect of the research on the **university infrastructure**”
- Budget not considered as part of the review

REVIEW CRITERIA

#1: Research performance competence

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- “**Capability** of investigator(s)
- “**Technical soundness** of the approach
- Adequacy of institutional **resources** available

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- Likelihood that the research will lead to new discoveries or **fundamental advances** in the field(s)
- Potential for substantial **impact on progress** in that field

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- *Weighted more heavily for basic research*

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#3: Utility or relevance of the research

- Likelihood that the research will contribute to achieving a **goal that is extrinsic or in addition to** that of the field
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- Likelihood that the research will contribute to achieving a **goal that is extrinsic or in addition to** that of the field
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- *Weighted more heavily for applied research*
 - But – Criterion #2 (Intrinsic Merit) still front-and-center

REVIEW CRITERIA

#4: Effect of the research on university infrastructure

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#4: **Effect of the research on university infrastructure**

- Potential to improve the quality, distribution, or effectiveness of **university's research and education activities**
- *Somewhat secondary: Not intended to 'make or break' a proposal*

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Availability/timeliness for obtaining future funding

- Timing of subsequent funding deadlines
- Preference for junior in disciplines that compete for federal funding

PREPARING THE PROPOSAL

Deadlines

- Solicited twice a year
- Due by 5pm on:
 - The first Monday in March (**March 4, 2019**)
 - The last Monday in September (Sept 30, 2019)
- Awards announced by January/June

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- Solicited twice a year
- Due by 5pm on:
 - The first Monday in March (**March 4, 2019**)
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- **Begin the process early** – optimally 1-2 months in advance
 - Work with Office of Research (Lisa/Kara)
 - Discuss with Dean/Director **well in advance**, particularly if requesting teaching release
 - Aim for completed proposal (3-5) business days in advance

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- **Introduction and Rationale**
- **Objectives**
- **Procedure**
- **Time Schedule**
- **Need for RRF**

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Description of proposed research (6 pages)

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These section headings MUST appear exactly as above, in order;

Do not include any other heading

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- **Discrete** project...
 - ...but clearly **connected to long-term research** agenda

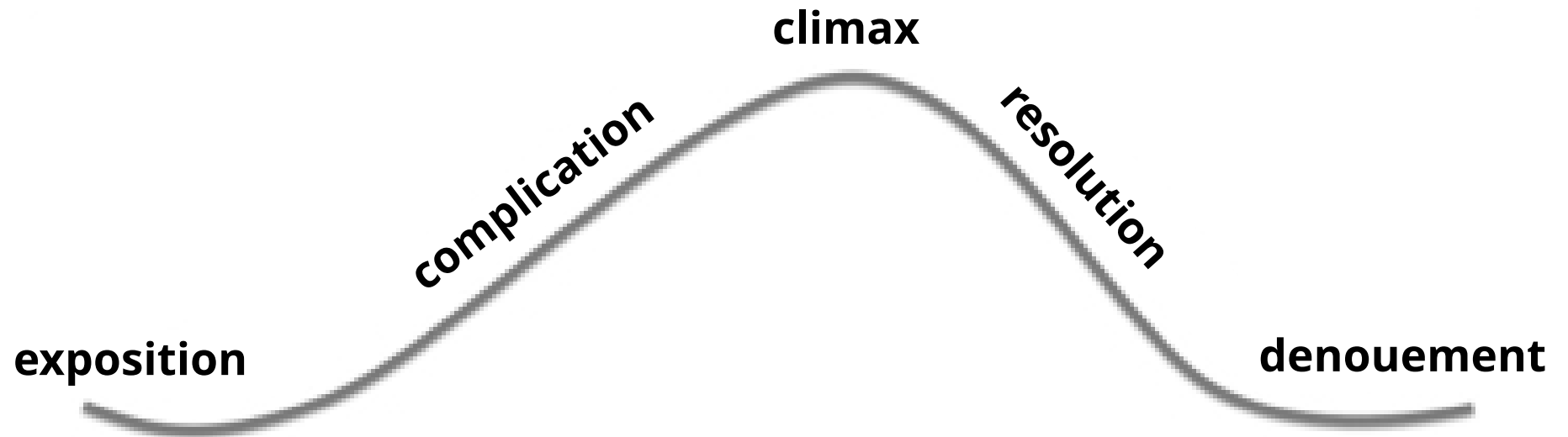
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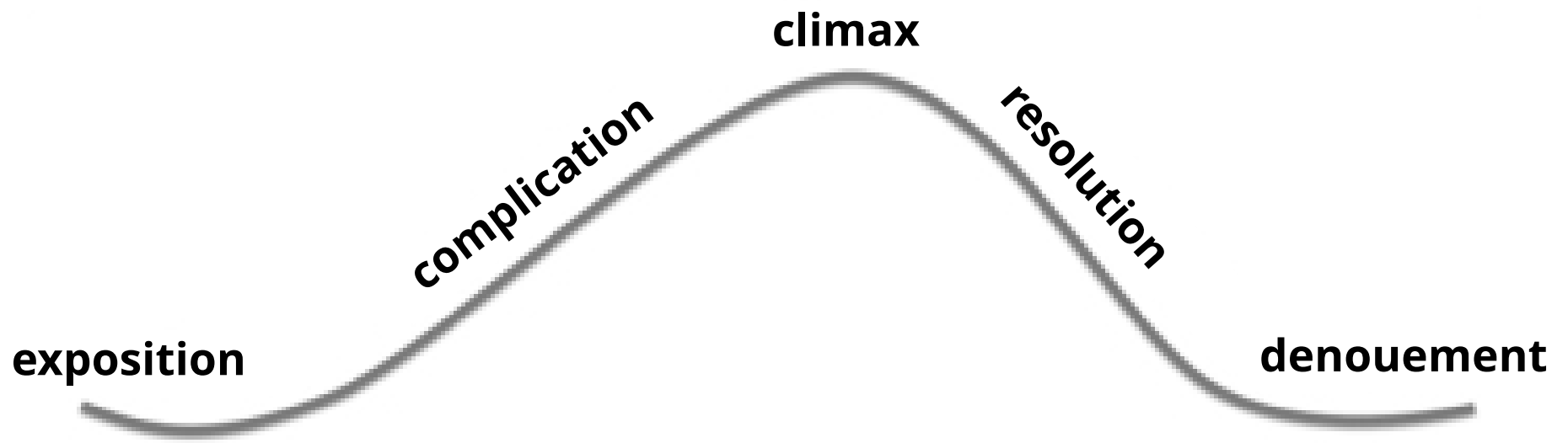
Conceptualizing your project

- Scope: 1-year
- **Discrete** project...
 - ...but clearly **connected to long-term research** agenda
- Focused on **increasing competitiveness** for future funding
 - ...and **your development** as a scholar

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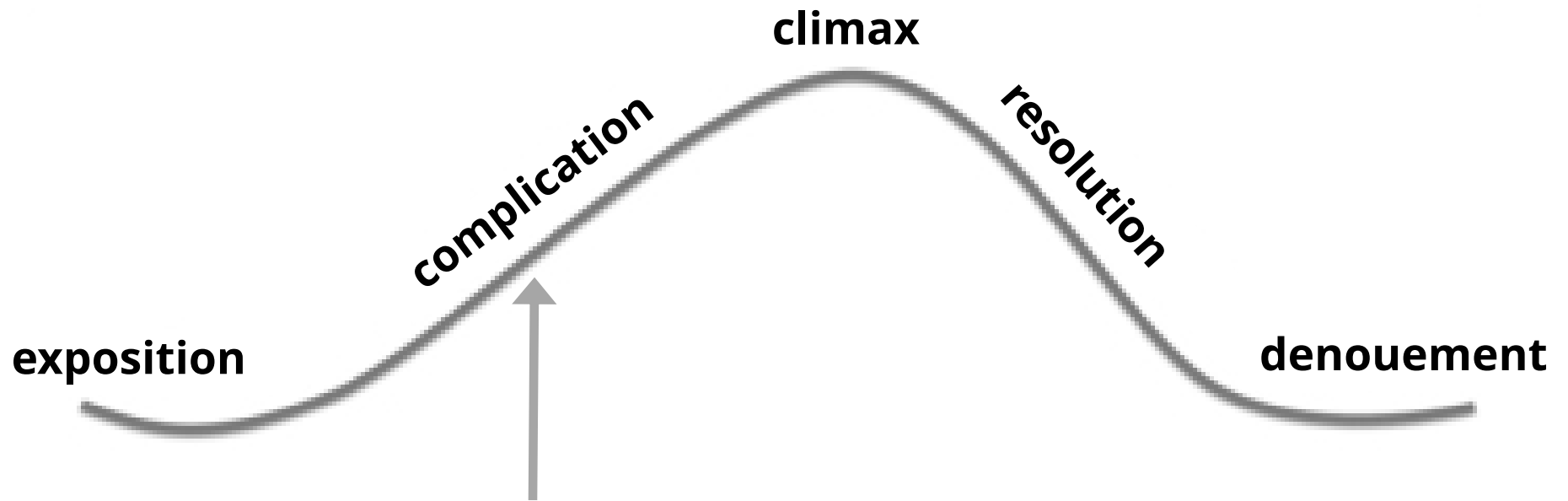
Think of the proposal's narrative arc...





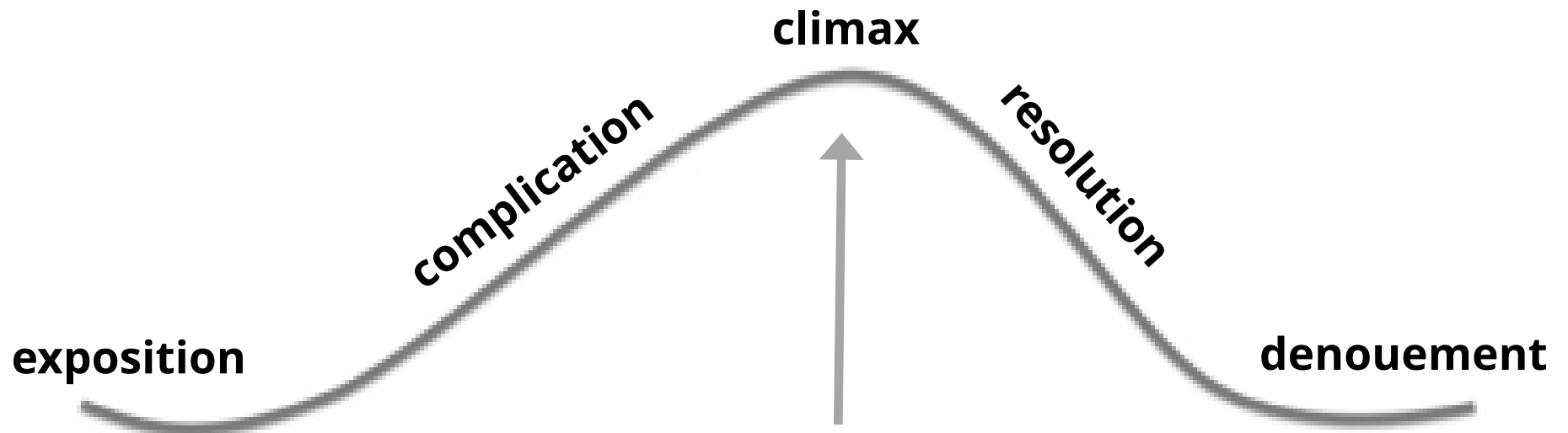
Introduction/Rationale:

- *Theoretical **background/justification***
- ***Significance***
- *Potential **Impact***



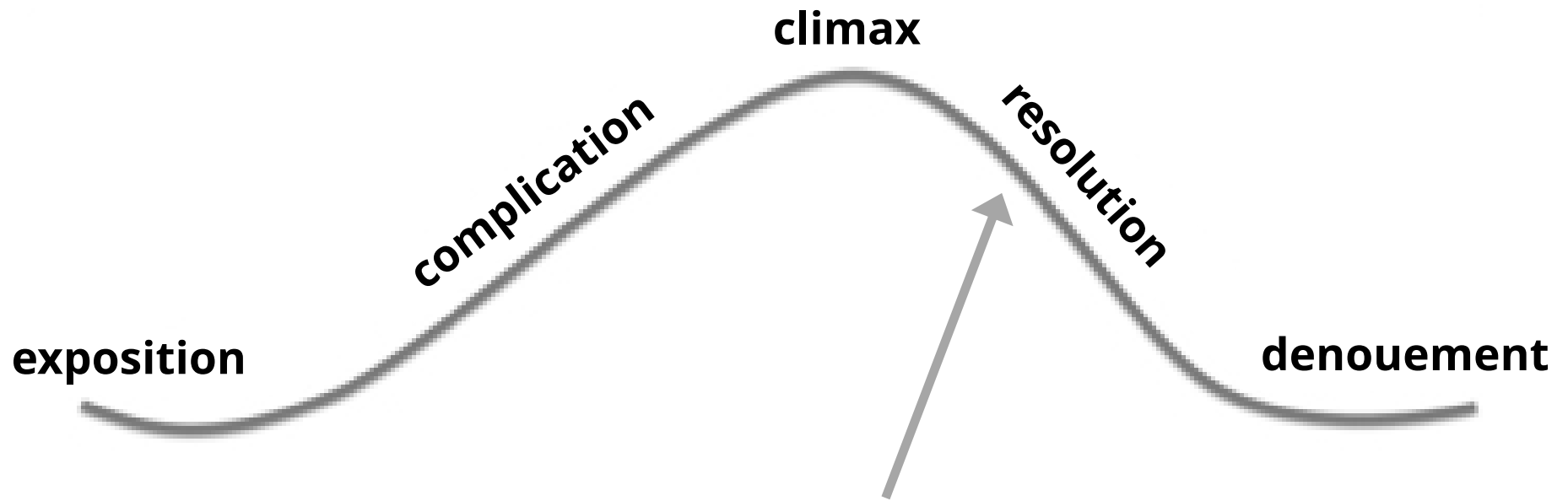
Introduction/Rationale:

- *Critical **literature review***
- *Identify the fundamental "**problem**"*
- ***Preliminary findings**, if any*
- *Segue to research questions/objectives*



Objectives:

- How do you **propose to solve** the “problem”?
- What **objectives** will the project accomplish towards that end?
- Specific, measurable **aims**

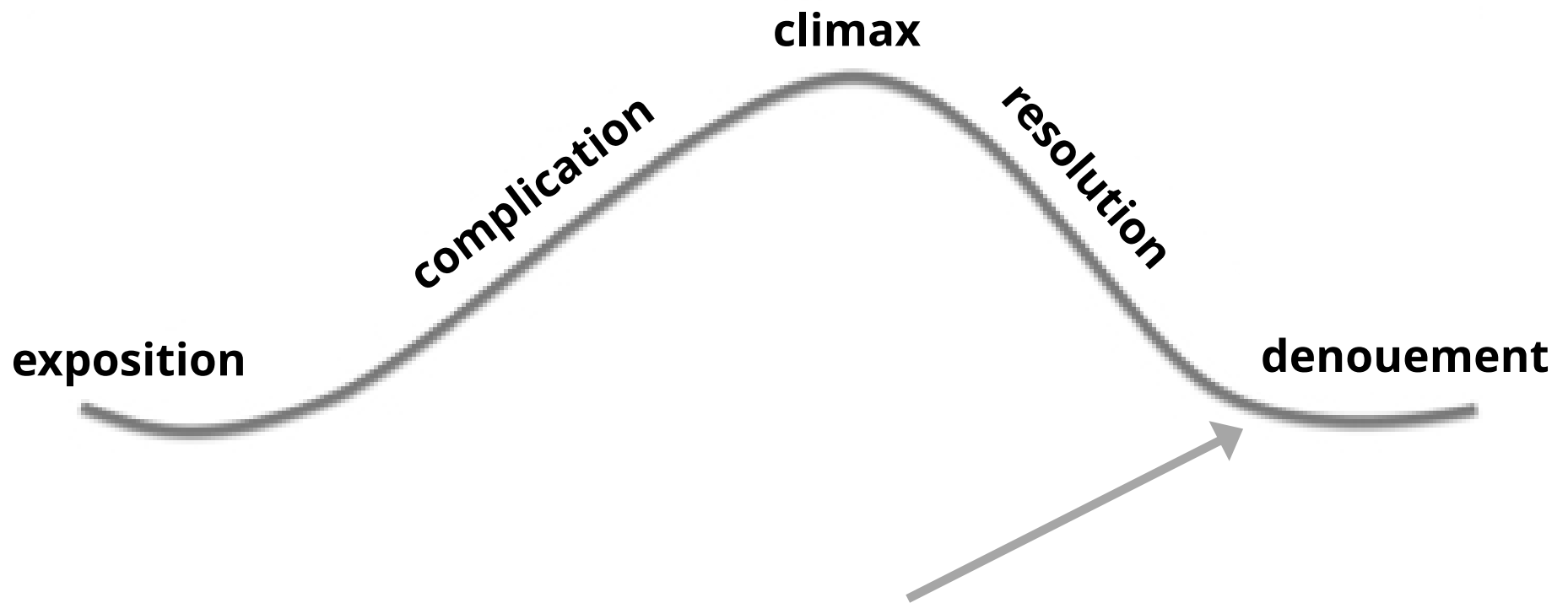


Procedure:

- What is your **plan** for achieving the objectives?
- What **methods/tools** will be used?
- What **capacities** do you have to successfully execute?

Time Schedule:

- How will proposed work be **completed within 1-year**?
- Consider including a table outlining key milestones



Need for RRF:

- How will the award **advance your overall research agenda** and career trajectory?
 - If **junior**: how will the award set you up for success?
 - If **senior**: how will the award support you in pursuing new directions?
- How will award **increase competitiveness** for subsequent funding?
- Briefly: **Anticipated contribution** to the field and practice/society
- Document **teaching load** (if requesting release, i.e. submitting as “RRF Scholar”)

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 - Past committee members listed on RRF website

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- Request awarded proposals to understand “sweet spot”

PREPARING THE PROPOSAL

RRF Website: Past RRF Committee Members and Awardees

<https://www.washington.edu/research/or/royalty-research-fund-rrf>

[Home](#) > [UW Research](#) > [Office of Research Central](#) > [Royalty Research Fund \(RRF\)](#)

Proposals must demonstrate a high probability of generating important new creative activities or scholarly understandings, new scholarly materials or resources, significant data or information, or essential instrumentation resources that are likely to significantly advance the reputation of the university, lead to external funding, or lead to developing a new technology.

(Note: RRF proposals must support faculty development; this fund is not intended to support independent research projects undertaken by graduate students and/or post-doctorates.)

Over the past three years, the success rate for RRF proposals has ranged from 24% to 28%, with an average of 26%.

History

This program is funded from royalty and licensing fee income generated by the University's technology transfer program. The RRF has been offered twice a year since the Spring of 1992. In 1994, the Royalty Research Fund Scholar program was initiated to provide one quarter of release time for faculty with full teaching loads to engage in concentrated scholarly activities. The RRF welcomes proposals with budgets up to \$40,000.

RRF FOR AWARDEES

- [List of Past RRF Awardees](#)
- [Guidelines for RRF Grants](#)
- [Scholar Replacement Salary Budget Instructions](#)
- [Sample Scholar Replacement Salary Budget and Workday Implementation Instructions](#)

RRF FOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- [Committee Member Lists](#)
- [Application Review Process \(*restricted\)](#)

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 - Great ideas with “trust me” research plans are not funded
 - Careful with scope: 1 year – over-ambition can read as lack of competence
- Very clear **operationalization** of key concepts/variables
- Include **preliminary results** to greatest extent possible...
 - ...but clearly **distinguish between past and proposed** work
 - What you have found → How proposed work will build on preliminary work
 - Aims should NOT incorporate completed work

TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL PROPOSAL

- When possible, specific detail about **future funding** opportunities
 - Not just “I will apply for NSF funding”...
 - ...but a specific program (“Geography”), solicitation (“CAREER grant”) and timeline (“in August 2019”).

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- Use “Need for RRF” to describe the **career trajectory**
 - How administrative/teaching loads have impacted research (as applicable)
 - Good place to emphasize commitment to undergraduate research and/or community-engaged scholarship (as applicable)

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 - Not just “I will apply for NSF funding”...
 - ...but a specific program (“Geography”), solicitation (“CAREER grant”) and timeline (“in August 2019”).
- Use “Need for RRF” to describe the **career trajectory**
 - How administrative/teaching loads have impacted research (as applicable)
 - Good place to emphasize commitment to undergraduate research and/or community-engaged scholarship (as applicable)
- Explicit about how the project fits within **long-term research agenda**
 - The RRF is investing in YOU, and your long-term contributions to the UW’s intellectual capital

TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL PROPOSAL

Community-engaged/"applied" work -

Particularly important to:

- **Clearly detail procedures and operationalization** so that nothing about plan appears "fuzzy"
- Emphasize **theoretical contributions** beyond particular site(s)
- Describe how partnerships will set you up for **future work/funding**

TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL PROPOSAL

Framing UW Tacoma context:

- Remind reviewers/committee (likely in “Need for RRF”) of:

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 - Diverse student population
 - *Over half transfer students*
 - *Less than 45% non-Hispanic and white*
 - *20% enrolled through military benefits*
 - *Anchor for South Sound urban/rural communities*

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 - Interdisciplinary culture, associated challenges in finding funding
- Emphasize undergraduate involvement (if applicable)
 - ...but realize that RRF is not intended as undergrad support grant
 - Focus remains on the researcher and their long-term trajectory

BUDGET



Allowable budget categories

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- **Faculty salary:**
 - 2 months summer (standard) OR release costs for 1 quarter (scholar)
 - Summer salary and teaching release rare – justify, identify priority
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SUBMITTING THE PROPOSAL

Components

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Components

- 1) **eGC1** created in SAGE [*Systems to Administer Grants Electronically*]

SUBMITTING THE PROPOSAL

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 - Plan time for approvals!
 - Discuss teaching release with Dean/Director **well in advance**

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- 4) Suggested **Reviewer memo**, by email (1 page, max) –
REQUIRED

SUBMITTING THE PROPOSAL

Suggested Reviewer Memo

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- Identify **2 to 4 UW faculty** (any campus) who can provide a “thorough and objective review”
 - Cannot have written or taught with recommended reviewers
 - Must have a formal appointment (i.e. no adjunct/affiliate, but lecturers may be selected if appropriate research experience)

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- Consider carefully: **At least 1 (maybe 2) will likely review**
 - Particularly important if working in a ‘niche’ field

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- Recommend **UWT faculty** and those who understand our context
- Consider carefully: **At least 1 (maybe 2) will likely review**
 - Particularly important if working in a ‘niche’ field
- Also identify UW **faculty who should not review** the proposal due to a conflict of interest (e.g. supervisors, previous collaborators)

SUBMITTING THE PROPOSAL

Identify appropriate “Research Area” in SAGE

SUBMITTING THE PROPOSAL

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SAGE

[Back to My eGC1s](#) > [A132867](#) > [Details](#)

A132867

- Details**
- PI, Personnel, & Organizations
- Contacts & Assign Access
- Abstract & RFA/RFP
- Activity Locations
- Budget & Fiscal Compliance
- Cost Sharing
- Compliance Questions
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Check for Errors

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Additional Information for RRF Application ?

Research Area

Application for RRF Scholar?
(one quarter teaching release)

- Choose One
- Arts or Humanities
- Social or Behavioral Sciences
- Physical Sciences
- Engineering
- Basic Biological or Biomedical Sciences
- Clinical Biomedical Science

[Continue](#)

[Check for Errors](#)

SUBMITTING THE PROPOSAL

Identify appropriate "Research Area" in SAGE

The screenshot shows the SAGE system interface for an RRF application. The left sidebar contains a navigation menu with the following items: Details, PI, Personnel, & Organizations, Contacts & Assign Access, Abstract & RFA/RFP, Activity Locations, Budget & Fiscal Compliance, Cost Sharing, Compliance Questions, Compliance Explanations, Application Summary, Attached Documents, Certify & Route, Save & Close this eGC1, and Check for Errors. The main content area is titled "Additional Information for RRF Application" and includes a "Research Area" dropdown menu. The dropdown menu is open, showing the following options: Choose One, Arts or Humanities, Social or Behavioral Sciences, Physical Sciences, Engineering, Basic Biological or Biomedical Sciences, and Clinical Biomedical Science. Below the dropdown menu, there are three colored boxes representing the research areas: "Arts, Humanities & Social Science" (blue), "Physical Sciences & Engineering" (red), and "Basic Biological & Biomedical Sciences" (yellow).

Arts, Humanities & Social Science

Physical Sciences & Engineering

Basic Biological & Biomedical Sciences

SUBMITTING THE PROPOSAL

Identify appropriate “Research Area” in SAGE

SAGE

Back to My eGC1s > A132867 > Details

A132867

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Additional Information for RRF Application ?

Research Area Choose One

Application for RRF Scholar? (one quarter teaching release)

Continue

Arts, Humanities & Social Science

Physical Sciences & Engineering

Basic Biological & Biomedical Sciences

May not be your discipline; see past committee list for insight

DECISIONS

Decision letter

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Award allocations

- Funds allocated such that proposals submitted to each of three committees have a roughly equal chance of being awarded
- Budget reductions sometimes occur
 - Specific line items may be specified in letter, or soft cut across all awards

WORKING WITH US

We are here to help!

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- **Academic editing** – different levels

Proofreading – spelling, grammar, word choice

Stylistic (line) editing – syntax (sentence) level

Developmental editing – argument level



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- **Budget** development

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- Interested in serving on **RRF committee**?
 - History of external funding
 - Associate/Full preferred

Dr. Katherine Stovel
RRF Program Chair
Professor, UW Sociology

We are here to help!

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