When reviewing your grant application, use the checklist below to confirm the use of proper style tips.

☑ Avoid words that communicate indecisiveness.

Do:
- *"We will define the pathway..."*
- *"This aim will determine"..."*
- *"These results will define the link between..."*
- *"The cell line we have developed and characterized will allow us to test..."*
- *"This grant proposal will build upon our pilot data and demonstrate that..."*

Don't:
- *"We will explore... "*
- *"In this exploratory aim..."*
- *"Determine whether there is an association"*
- *"Determine if we can develop a cell line..."*
- *"We will develop pilot data..."*

☑ Make no bold statements without justification.

☑ Use subheadings to make the application as easy to navigate as possible.

☑ Ensure that your writing conveys a realistic sense.

Do this by (1) proposing work that can be reasonably accomplished within the designated project period, (2) indicating that suggested personnel have the appropriate scientific expertise and training, and (3) creating a reasonable budget that aligns with the elements of your narrative.

☑ Keep related ideas and information together.

☑ Think of your proposal as an argument.

Never forget that your proposal is a work of persuasion and not a collection of disparate facts. It isn't merely a description of the work you want to do; you are making an argument that it needs to be done and that you are the right person to do it. Make a tight, focused, compelling argument.

✓ Avoid lengthy, complex sentences that require close attention from often tired reviewers.

✓ Make one point in each paragraph to ensure easy readability.

✓ Be specific and informative while avoiding unnecessary redundancy.

✓ Use subheadings to make the application as easy to navigate as possible.

✓ Spell out all acronyms on the first reference.

✓ Use the active voice.

Do:
"We will develop a cell line."

Don't:
"A cell line will be developed."