



# Quaternary Research Proposal!



All proposals begin with a **Proposal Solicitation!** Let's imagine that the [National Science Foundation](#) (NSF) has solicited proposals describing new and needed Quaternary research! These proposals will be evaluated (and selected!) using [NSF's merit review criteria](#) which assess the proposed work's **intellectual merit** and **broader impacts** for science and society.

For our purposes, we'll modify our review and assessment criteria to fit our goals in Quaternary Geology. Your proposal should include the following items, and will be assessed based on how effectively these proposal components are presented. Note that these components align with your [proposed research outline](#), and other writing assignments already completed for your research proposal - you have a good start!

**Research Question (5%):** Does the proposal clearly articulate a research question that is specific, focused, and reasonable in scope? Is the proposed research clearly related to Quaternary Geology? Is the relevant timeline and field area clearly defined?

**Motivation (5%):** Does the proposal clearly explain the societal or scientific benefit of the proposed work? Are examples or citations provided to support this motivation? Is the motivation specific and relevant to the proposed research question?

**Current State of Knowledge (15%):** Does the proposal present the proposed research in the context of previously published research? Does the proposal accurately and clearly explain the current state of knowledge, and cite published research sufficiently? Is relevant knowledge about the proposed field area cited and clearly explained?

**Proposed Research Methods (30%):** Are the proposed research methods clearly explained, detailed, well cited, and well organized? Does the proposal have a clear sampling and/or field plan and explain how uncertainty will be minimized? Do the methods seem feasible and appropriate for the spatial scale and time period of interest?

**Expected outcomes (25%):** Does the proposal clearly describe what the outcomes of each of the proposed research methods will be, and what form these research findings will take? Does the proposal explain how quantitative data will be analyzed? Are examples provided and cited from published research?

**Interpretations (15%):** Does the proposal clearly explain how results will be interpreted using published research, and how these interpretations will address the proposed research question? Does the proposal explain how the proposed research will improve scientific understanding of Quaternary Geology?

Proposals will be presented in written and oral format, with final oral presentations occurring the week of May 9th, and final written proposals submitted on Wednesday, May 18th.

Final oral presentations will be scored by your peers and Claire in the categories listed above [using a 1 - 5 scale in each category](#). The highest scoring proposal will be (symbolically) selected for funding - and will receive a prize! Final written proposals will be assessed by Claire in the categories listed above using the same 1 - 5 scale. An additional 5% of final assessments will be awarded for proposals that are clearly presented, free of typos and grammatical errors, and appropriately credited and cited.