

Suggestions for Research Chalk Talks, by [Dr. David Russell](#)

I suggest to my lab when going on faculty interviews that they can use the specific sections for an RO1 application to structure their Chalk Talks but change the order in which the information is presented.

1. Significance.

- Start by clearly outlining the question that you want to address.
- Explain why you want to do this.
- Give the big picture view of the potential impact of this work.
- Include the longer-term significance of research in this area.

2. Specific Aims.

- As you would with an RO1 application, present your specific aims.
- Talk about what you want to do and how you want to do it.
- Include alternative approaches, i.e. possible pitfalls and solution.
- Clearly state the outcome/product of each aim.
- Discuss how the aims inter-relate.
- I would recommend you do not have more than 3 specific aims.

3. Innovation.

- What is novel about your research program?
- This can be conceptual or technical.
- Need to stress why your research program is unique and original.
- You might want to touch on why this is different from your “parental” lab if this might be perceived as an issue.

4. Pathway to Funding.

- It is good if you can present your plan as to how to attract outside research support for your program.
- This demonstrates you are grounded and have a grasp on what is required in the “real” world.