10 principles of grant writing

I. Start planning EARLY and allow time for internal administrative requirements

II. Develop a compelling scientific question

III. Contact the funding agency or NIH institute in advance of submission, develop a relationship with program officials, and identify/apply to the most propitious funding source

IV. Review successful applications to look for effective ways proposal writers have conveyed their ideas

V. Write clearly while telling an interesting and persuasive story

VI. Use figures, images, and tables to convey not only your preliminary results but also your thinking and approach

VII. Make the grant visually appealing

VIII. Promote your science by stressing the benefits- significance- innovation of each feature of your proposal

IX. Get feedback early and often in the process

X. Read (and follow) the grant proposal instructions

IN SUMMARY:
- Outstanding science
- Impeccable packaging
- Clear delineation of the beneficial impact of your proposal
- Submit in a timely fashion!