**SCORING AND CRITIQUE BASIC PLAYS**

* The table below provides a guide for reviewers in assigning overall impact scores and individual criterion scores.
* Overall impact, for a research project, is the project’s likelihood to have a sustained, powerful influence on the research field(s) involved, but may be defined differently for different types of applications.
* Each review criterion should be assessed based on the strength of that criterion in the context of the work being proposed

o As a result, a reviewer may give only moderate scores to some of the review criteria but still give a high overall impact score because the one review criterion critically important to the research is rated highly; or a reviewer could give mostly high criterion ratings but rate the overall impact score lower because the one criterion critically important to the research being proposed is not highly rated.

* An application does not need to be strong in all categories to be judged likely to have major impact, e.g., a project that by its nature is not innovative may be essential to advance a field.
* A score of 5 is a good, medium-impact application.
* The entire scale (1-9) should always be considered.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Overall Impact or**  **Criterion Strength** | **Score** | **Descriptor** |
| **High** | **1** | **Exceptional** |
| **2** | **Outstanding** |
| **3** | **Excellent** |
| **Medium** | **4** | **Very Good** |
| **5** | **Good** |
| **6** | **Satisfactory** |
| **Low** | **7** | **Fair** |
| **8** | **Marginal** |
| **9** | **Poor** |
| Other Designations for Final Outcome | | |
| AB | Abstention | |
| CF | Conflict of Interest | |
| DF | Deferred | |
| ND | Not Discussed | |
| NP | Not Present | |
| NR | Not Recommended for  Further Consideration | |

**Criterion Scoring**

* In most cases, five individual criteria are scored (Significance, Investigator(s), Innovation, Approach, environment), but certain Funding Opportunity Announcements may include more than five scored criteria
* Criterion scores are provided for all applications
  + Criterion scores are intended to convey how each assigned reviewer weighed the strengths and weaknesses of each section
  + Providing scores without providing comments in the review critique is discouraged
  + The impact score for the application is not intended to be an average of criterion scores
* Criterion scores are entered into the Internet Assisted Review site for the meeting; the same screen also allows uploading of the written critique at the same time
* If the reviewer’s opinion changed as a result of discussion at the meeting, the reviewer should change his/her criterion scores to match his/her critiques and overall impact score as part of the EDIT phase



* The criterion scores appear in a table at the beginning of each critique in the summary statement