Top 10 Tips from K Reviewers

1. Focus on the Future
   - Future of your field - Wayne Gretsky - not where the puck is but where the puck is going to be
   - Future of you

2. Filling Lacunae to achieve your promise
   a. Think back to the visioning exercise
   b. You’re great but there are key gaps that need to be addressed to reach your goals
   c. training plan & mentoring plan are the critical elements

3. Not an R01
   - project is primarily to prepare you for the next next step in your career plan
   - reasonable window of ambitiousness

4. Specific Aims are key:
   - What you want to do
   - Why you want to do it
   - What you have done
   - What is innovative
   - Encompass the whole grant (“a snapshot of the whole thing”)
   - Force a high level of clarity

5. Exciting/Integrated/Consistent
   - bubbly with exciting ideas
   - but fully formed and coherent
   - from specific aims to personal statement to training/career development/mentoring plan to research plan and mentor/chairman letters

6. Engage reviewers
   - Tell a compelling story with a driving narrative
   - Make it easy to read, avoiding long sentences and dense text

7. When you come to a fork in the road….
   - I.e., a key decision point in you design, measures, etc....
   - Explain Your Rationale....

8. “Show Don’t Tell”
   - More verbs, less adjectives

9. Be Strategic
   - talk to Program Officer
   - Target to appropriate program and review committee
   - Get a sense of who the reviewers are (check out/reference relevant pubs)

10. Send to Mentors, advisors, consultants, Colleagues, Friends, relatives, etc. (and not at last minute)