



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: A02090043

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In October 2002, a complainant¹ alleged a PI² had copied some text from a published paper³ into a proposal submitted to NSF.⁴ Our review showed the PI copied several sentences⁵ from the paper into her proposal without properly quoting or citing the text.

We wrote to the PI requesting clarification. The PI apologized for her sloppiness and explained how she was rushed in the preparation of this proposal. She noted she cited the paper in her proposal. She pointed out the copied text did not influence her proposed hypothesis or methods and the ideas in the copied text were not presented as her own, but rather as a summary of other's research. The PI also noted her relative inexperience in preparing proposals for NSF.

A reviewer, who noted the proposal appeared prepared far too quickly, as it was rife with errors, gives the PI's explanation some credibility. NSF's database confirms the PI has not submitted many proposals to NSF. Because the amount of the copied text is small, the text is clearly summarizing others' results, and the inexperience of the PI, we concluded the best resolution of this matter was to have the PI correct the record. She has, and this case is closed.

¹ (footnote redacted).

² (footnote redacted).

³ (footnote redacted).

⁴ (footnote redacted).

⁵ (footnote redacted).

	Investigator	Attorney	Supervisor	AIGI
Sign / date				