Linking experiments exercise

Choose A or B, depending on whether you’re more interested in papers (A) or proposals (B). Or, if you’d like to work on both, do both.

A. Choose a four-figure passage from a results section, either your own or someone else’s. If it’s someone else’s, it must be published. Evaluate the section:

1) How easily could you understand the logic connecting these figures to one another and the rest of the paper? Where did you have trouble following the text? What do you think was missing at those points?
2) How well did the authors follow the standard results section formula (rationale, purpose, method, result, conclusion)? If they didn’t follow that formula in some sections, how did that relate to how easy or difficult it was to understand?
3) How has your assessment of this results section affected the way you think about writing results sections?

B. Choose one aim from a research plan/strategy section, either your own or someone else’s. If you choose to use someone else’s proposal, obtain EXPLICIT permission and remove his or her name and identifying references. Evaluate it:

1) How well does the rationale for the aim justify each of the specific experiments proposed? How could the overall rationale be improved so that it relates better to the experiments?
2) How well do the authors explain how each sub-aim relates to the aim? How did the authors help the reader follow their logic? How would you revise these explanations so that the necessity of each experiment would be clear?
3) How well does each sub-aim justify the specific experiment proposed? How could the relationship between the method and the sub-aim be clarified?

Turn in:
• The section you analyzed (including the source if it’s published)
• Your answers to the questions