Grant Writing 101
An Intro into the Process

Background:

My name is Bill White, and I am an Applied Engineering and Technology teacher of 17 years. Being a teacher in this field has afforded me the opportunity to teach all sorts of technology ranging from 3D printers to CNC equipment. It is a unique opportunity that I am thankful to have. Going to school to be a teacher, I never learned about writing grants. After the reality of school budgets set in, I knew that I needed additional resources to provide my students with the best possible opportunities.

Where to start:

- Talk with you administrators first - they will want to help you
- Use a social media platform properly to highlight some of the neat projects you are doing in your classroom
- Communicate effectively with parents
- Don't be afraid of the process or being told no
- Check your county/state/federal resources ([PA grants](#))
- Google grants ([Additive Manufacturing grants - Google Search](#))

The Application Process:

Many times, the grant writing process is simple. As long as you have your district data easily accessible, you can complete some grants in as little as an hour. In my experience, the grant application process usually takes a few hours.

Typically, I look over the grant application and copy the questions/prompts into a Google Doc. The reason that I do this is two-fold; first, I like to make sure I have a good platform to think out my responses in and second, I like to have documentation for future reference.

Honestly, these prompts are going to be super easy for you to answer. Just make sure that you convey the message that you are passionate about the project you are writing the grant for...but be careful that you don't go overboard. In my opinion, the selection committee is more likely to choose a project that is well-thought-out and succinct versus one that is overwritten.

Create a strong Professional Learning Network:

There is always a ton of grant money to be had as long as you know when and where to look. With that being said, you have to create your own opportunities as well. This is where having a strong professional learning network comes into play. By creating these partnerships and keeping constant lines of communication open, you are now inevitably opening up doors that otherwise didn't exist. These partnerships with local companies are priceless; they may just be field trips for students, but you just never know. I look at this as just another opportunity for my students.