

# Personal Statement – Intellectual Merit & Broader Impacts

NSF-GRFP Summer Application Prep Series

## You (Personal Statement)

### Intellectual Merit

This is where you'll discuss the intellectual merit that is associated with your background, not that of your research.

Ask yourself:

- When/how did I become interested in science? In my particular field?
- How have I prepared to conduct research?
- What sort of experience do I have in a lab?
- How have I exhibited myself as a leader?
- What sort of challenges have I had, and how did I overcome them?

This is where you'll describe your motivation to be a scientist and leader, your research skills/abilities and experience, and detail your preparation, achievements, and perseverance.

This is a space to discuss your future goals – as a scholar, a professional and scientist, and as a leader.

### Broader Impacts

This is your opportunity to illustrate how you've stepped outside of your studies/research and impacted a larger community.

'Community' can be however you define it, such as a student organization, high school or college campus, volunteer experience, professional organization, etc. Do you identify with these communities?

Describe your experiences from your background and personal narrative where you have left a positive impression on a community or an organization. What was that impression? What was your positive impact?

Discuss how you've been involved with (or led) outreach efforts, including building a broadening participation in your communities.

Take the opportunity to talk about your leadership experience. Be sure to mention any experience you have in communicating science.