

# Research Plan Statement – Intellectual Merit & Broader Impacts

NSF-GRFP Summer Application Prep Series

## Your Work (Research Plan)

### Intellectual Merit

Merit of your work:

- Why is your research problem important to investigate?
- What is the cutting-edge dimension of your project?
- Describe your innovative nature, your project's rigor and creativity.
- What new knowledge do you anticipate to create?
- How will this contribute to existing science scholarship?

Talk about yourself, too: why are you the right person to lead this research?

- What skills and experience have you equipped yourself with to conduct this research?
- If you're lacking some necessary skills or experiences, what is your plan to fill in the gap in time to lead your research project?
- What research experience do you have? How is it relevant to this project?

What will you do with your results?

- What sort of journals do you hope to publish in?
- Presentations?

### Broader Impacts

This is your opportunity to illustrate how your research will be of value and importance to communities and society.

When considering the 'community' and society, think about the environments, demographics, organizations, and neighborhoods that are relevant to your research and its results. Relating to your proposed research project, ask the following:

- How is my research problem relevant to society and improving society in some way?
- What problem will my research and its results solve and for whom?
- With whom will you share your results? Why will this be of value to them?
- Are any communities involved with or impacted by your research? Describe the value and importance of this work to them.
- How will you share the results of your research outside of academic journals and presentations?
- Will your research and results impact interdisciplinary efforts?