

Fellowship Panel – Writing Resources (Notes)

- Julie Muretta & Mike Roddewig (Panel Facilitators)
- Successful writing
 - Selling yourself on paper (don't lie but sell yourself!)
 - Intellectual Merit & Broader Impact (NSF-GRFP)
 - Knowing what those mean is very important.
 - Why is your research relevant? (why should the taxpayers pay you? Think about this!)
 - What is the broader impact? - what are some ways that your research activities will affect other scientific communities. This an intentionally open-ended question.
 - Collaboration - is collaboration a significant component to your research and what will you, specifically, contribute to this collaboration.
 - Read the solicitation and announcement **carefully** to make sure you are doing what they are looking for in funding proposals.
 - Finding other Fellows and ask to look at their proposals. This well help you think about the structure of your own proposal.
- Reviewers – finding a reviewer besides your PI. It is ok to contact program officers, other fellows, look inside your institution and outside of the institution.
 - Graduate school may have resources.
- Writing the personal statement. (Do not give a chronological resume).
 - Why do you care about doing research? In terms of professional goals.

- How did you get to your current position (research, employment, education)?
- Previous research experience and how it has affected your goals.
- Do not be afraid to sell yourself in this part of the application as well. Tie this to your research statement in some 'tiny' way.
- Organizations & Institutions
 - General writing process:
 - Impacts are a common theme in writing fellowships. How does your research impact broader communities (not just the scientific community)?
 - Answer the questions that are you asked. Use evidence to strengthen your response.
 - What is the problem? The organization wants to know what is the problem and how you propose to make a contribution in solving and/or understanding that problem.
 - Pay attention to due dates, page limits, formatting
 - If you do not strictly adhere to the requirements. **IT WILL BE RETURNED WITHOUT REVIEW!**
 - Nationwide Grants vs. State Grants
 - Consider your audience. You are speaking directly to them in your writing statement.
 - Consider the dollar amount of the award and align that with the feasibility of your research goals. (Will the agency's award allow you to do your work?)
 - Crucial to point out potential caveats in your work this will demonstrate to your reader that you have a clear understanding of the problem.

- Point out primary and secondary goals and understand the difference between the two.
 - Are you developing something new? If so, why is your approach better or different?
- International Fellowships
 - Extremely difficult
 - You must make the case (argument) that your work cannot be done anywhere in the US and that there is a sense of urgency in your needing this funding and travel.
- Previous Research
 - Does your previous research have applicability to what you are applying for?
 - If not, what skills did you learn and how will your approach be different?
- Proposed Timelines:
 - Consider the obstacles and how will you address them as they arise.
 - Due Diligence in defining your research goals.
- Look at the statistics on the awards
 - What field? (how many proposals do they get)
 - How many awards are offered?
 - What areas are receiving the most funding?
- Dealing with rejection
 - Think about the comments from the reviewers. Especially if you are rejected.
 - What are the problems? How can you improve your work and resubmit for the next cycle?
 - Do you need to make significant changes?