**Student Essay Response**

Attending this conference would be monumental to my academic progress. My current project is an important first step towards my dissertation project, as I hope to utilize these assessments with cancer patients. By attending this conference, I will be able to network with experts in response time modeling, who can provide insight into considerations when creating and interpreting this form of assessment. In addition, this conference has the possibility to create collaboration projects centered around the research we are conducting in our lab. Furthermore, leaders of my field will be attending this conference, and the ability to make connections with these researchers could be instrumental in finding a postdoctoral position. This conference could shape the direction of my research and academic progress, so funding that could make this incredible opportunity a reality would be an important facet of my graduate experience.