

# Assignment for the next session

- Draft an **outline** of your “Statement of Purpose” essay.
  - Bullet points are fine. Maybe one sentence (or key idea) per paragraph that you’d plan to write.
  - This does not need to be incredibly detailed, but it should include enough information so that you could fairly easily write the full essay later on from this starting point.
  - See the recommendations in the “How to guide” doc also included in this GitHub repo and others linked from that doc.
  - Have one school in mind (e.g., Northwestern!) as you’re writing, so that you can outline some specific content catered to that school.
  - If you plan to write about a difficult period in your life (e.g., to show grit/perseverance), you do *not* need to share the details of that experience with each other during this workshop. For example, you could include a section in your outline about how you “overcame difficulties that are personal/school-related/other and how you grew through that” (without adding specifics).
- Bring that outline with you to our next session. You will share this with others in breakout rooms to receive feedback.
  - Be prepared to provide helpful feedback to your colleagues!
  - Remember what you learned in the writing workshops about peer editing and offering feedback. See also [this peer review template from our summer writing workshops](#).
- Optional:
  - Exchange your outline with one of your colleagues (REU or other) for peer editing prior to our next session and incorporate those comments before sharing with our group.
  - Share your outline and/or discuss your plans for the outline with a research mentor to get their feedback.