**Personal, Relevant Background, and Future Goals Statement Instructions**

The **Personal, Relevant Background, and Future Goals Statement** **Template** has been formatted to the requirements of the GRFP Solicitation. Follow the instructions, then **REMOVE** all instructional text in brackets [], before you input your own content into the **three-page** Personal, Relevant Background, and Future Goals Statement.

**General Instructions:**Outline your educational and professional development plans and career goals. Describe how you envision graduate school preparing you for a career in STEM, including how your experiences could contribute to scientific understanding and broadly benefit society. Your statement should include:

* Potential to advance knowledge in your field (**Intellectual Merit**)
* Potential to benefit society (**Broader Impacts**)
* Keep section headings exactly as shown: **Intellectual Merit** and **Broader Impacts**
* Other headings are allowed
* Follow all formatting rules listed
* Line break between sections
* Before submission, replace ALL instructional text with your own content
* **Applications that deviate from this format will be considered non-compliant and will be returned without review (i.e., will not be considered for a fellowship).**

**Formatting Checklist**

* **Page size:** 8.5” x 11”
* **Page limit:** Three (3) PDF pages for the Personal, Relevant Background, and Future Goals Statement
* **Sections:** Separate sections may be any length within the overall page limit and may appear in any order. *Note: section length is not restricted to the space currently shown in the template.*
* **Font:** Arial (not Arial Narrow), Courier New, or Palatino Linotype (10 pt or larger) OR Times New Roman / Computer Modern (11 pt or larger)
* **Margins:** 1” on all sides, no text in margins (no header, footer, name, or page number)
* **Line spacing:** Single spaced; no more than 6 lines of text per vertical inch (do not shrink spacing to fit more text)
* **Figures/Charts:** include descriptive alternative text; must be included for all images, figures, graphs, and charts
* **Links:** Do not include URLs or external website links
* **References:** Must include journal or publication name (abbreviations accepted). DOIs and URLs are not accepted

**Tips:** Reviewers will look for evidence of:

* Active engagement with STEM communities
* Sustained interest in STEM
* Personal initiative and motivation
* Maturity and intellectual curiosity
* Growth through academic and professional experiences (problem solving, leadership, teamwork, perseverance, and strong communication skills)
* Vision for their future role in STEM
* Interest in addressing societal challenges

Note: You do not need to address every bullet. These are examples of qualities and experiences.

**Personal, Relevant Background, and Future Goals Statement**

**Summary of Personal, Relevant Background, and Future Goals Statement:** [Insert your Personal Statement here. This section must include both Intellectual Merit and Broader Impacts, under separate headings as shown below. Other headings and sections are allowed.]

**Intellectual Merit**[State the Intellectual Merit of your Personal Statement here. Keep this heading exactly as shown. Do not combine add text or combine with other sections. *See GRFP Solicitation for definitions and guidance related to Intellectual Merit.*]

**Broader Impacts**[State the Broader Impacts of your Personal Statement here. Keep this heading exactly as shown. Do not add other text or combine with other sections. *See GRFP Solicitation for definitions and guidance related to Broader Impacts.*]

**References:** [List cited references here. References must include journal or publication name (abbreviations accepted). DOIs and URLs are not accepted.]