

Use the formats/information provided below to develop your typed, personal narrative essay that must now exceed two pages and your biographical sketch.

Personal Narrative Essay

Make sure you include your name and the date on your essay and biographical sketch.

This narrative essay should be divided into two parts and must not exceed a total of two pages. Please use a 12-point font.

Part 1. Discuss

- Your interest in participating in the research program
- How participation fits into your career goals, e.g. pursuit of graduate- or professional-level work in a specific discipline/area
- The science questions that intrigue you and the reason(s) for the intriguing interest(s)
- The specific areas in which you would like to conduct research. Be as specific and as clear as possible (but not overly narrow) about your research interests (it will greatly facilitate your placement). Indicate what influenced the development of this/these interest(s).

Part II. Discuss

- Your relevant background—academic personal and service
- The special strengths, interests and personal characteristics that you will bring to the research program
- What you wish to gain from the summer research experience.

Biographical Sketch

On a separate page, provide a short summary (75-100 words) of your

- Academic background
- Research and other interests
- Extracurricular and volunteer activities
- Plans
- Other items of personal interest that will help other students, faculty and staff to get to know you.

The biosketch should be in a publishable form that is suitable for formal, e.g. submission to National Science Foundation (NSF), and informal settings. Samples from previous participants are provided below.

Sample Biographical Sketches

Eve Archer is currently a senior at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, with a major in microbiology and a special interest in biophysics. Her future plans include a career that combines medicine and physics research. She is the firstborn in her family and is a dual citizen of Cameroon and the United States. Eve's hobbies include aerobics, music, reading, skydiving and community service. She volunteers at a local shelter for the homeless.

Permanent Address: 555 Washington Avenue S.E., Box 63, Minneapolis, MN 55414

Ray May is a sophomore at the University of California-San Diego. His career goals are to continue his undergraduate education at the University, emphasizing mathematics and science while also learning more about various cultures, the arts and history. Ray is preparing himself for a career in engineering or physics. He is exploring mechanical engineering as a career possibility because of his keen interest in the way machines work.

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