WRITING A COMPETITIVE GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP APPLICATION: FINDING YOUR RESEARCH IDEA AND SELLING POINTS

Sylvia Rodríguez-Abudo, Sheilla Torres-Nieves, Oscar Marcelo Suárez, and Alexandra Padilla

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RESEARCH PROPOSAL
1. What is the topic of your research? Can you concisely explain your research question and goals?

2. What is the purpose and merit of the research? What will this research contribute to your field and to society, and are these contributions significant? How will the success of this research reflect on the fellowship organization?
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3. What is the research methodology? Is the proposed research feasible in the time period of the fellowship, and will the candidate have adequate resources? Is the research over-ambitious or under-ambitious?

4. Describe your research qualifications. Why should we believe you can successfully pull this off?

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5. **How will you disseminate the results of your research?** Do you know the important people, journals, conferences and organizations in your field?

6. **What are the benefits of this project to you personally?** Are you passionate about this work? Will the completion of this research advance your career goals? Why is this fellowship opportunity more important to you than other opportunities?

from ProFellow.com
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- describe your interest in [public service]
- how you will relate to the Urban Fellows community?
- describe past experiences in leadership, community service, team efforts, etc. [note: Do not recount your résumé.]
PERSONAL STATEMENTS

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• describe your career goals
I. SIMPLICITY

• Avoid complex jargon
1. SIMPLICITY

- Avoid complex jargon
- “Tell them, tell them what you are going to tell them, then tell them again.”

2. MODESTY WON’T HELP

ACCOMPLISH
2. MODESTY WON’T HELP

• Neither will bragging

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• Neither will bragging
• Thoroughly highlight your accomplishments
“A very specific project makes for a tighter proposal. Not to mention, it’s much easier to write a project proposal for a very specific task than a proposal for an idea with a wide scope.”

Vicki Johnson, ProFellow.com
4. USE POWERFUL OPENING STATEMENTS

• most important tool for maintaining the reader’s attention
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• most important tool for maintaining the reader’s attention
• get current statistics
• tie your ideas to something in the news and something time-specific
5. REVISE, PROOFREAD, THEN REVISE AGAIN

MORE RESOURCES

• https://grad.illinois.edu/sites/default/files/PDFs/Fellowship-Proposal-Writing-STEM.pdf
• https://www.profellow.com/tips/7-prepare-a-strong-project-proposal/
• https://www.profellow.com/tips/prepare-a-compelling-personal-statement/
• GOOGLE!!!!