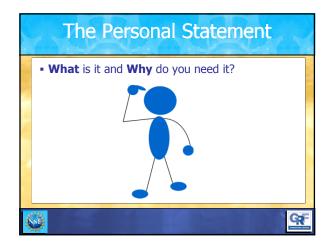
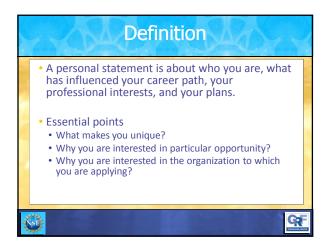
# How to Write a Successful Personal Statement; The 5 Ws and 1H Presented by Patti Ordóñez, PhD & Frances Carter-Johnson, PhD With slides borrowed from W. Winchester, PhD, A. Q. Gates, PhD and CAHSI Graduate Research Fellowship Operations Center

## Workshop Outcomes What is a personal statement and... Why do you need it? Who does this apply to? When do you start? How do you start? Where do you go from here?









## How do you start?

- Decide what and where are applying to
  - Graduate school
  - Fellowship
  - Scholarship
  - Internship
  - Job
- Find out specific **review criteria** for the application...





### **Example Criteria**

- Content
- · Alignment of applicant's goals with opportunity
- Distinguishing characteristics of applicant
- Concrete experiences/examples that support skills and capabilities
- Compelling reason why the applicant is seeking the opportunity
- All required elements of the application addressed
- Mechanics
- Clarity
- Organization
- Grammar
- Appropriateness of detail





### Constructing a Successful Application

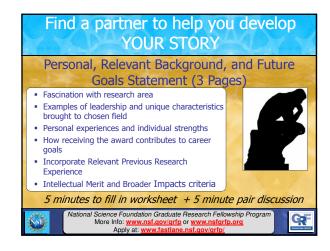
### Personal Statement (limit: 3 Pages)

- Describe personal, professional or educational experiences that have contributed to your preparation and desire to pursue graduate study
- Describe your leadership potential, and how you see yourself now or in the future contributing to research, education, and innovations in science and engineering
- Discuss your career aspirations and some goals you hope to achieve

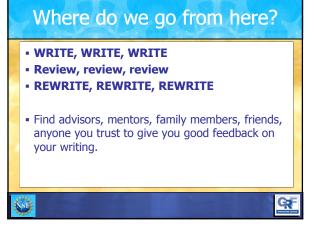


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## Where do we go from here? Before you write, Decide what key points you really want to get across What relevant unique personal experiences do you have? Why is this opportunity for you? How is the opportunity important to your overall goals? Create a checklist of all required elements of the application



## Reflection - With what you know now, how are you better prepared to create a successful personal statement? - With what you know now, how are you better prepared to fund your graduate education?