

Include your name and the date on your essay and biographical sketch. Use a 12-point font and 1" margins.

Personal Essay

Do not exceed 400 words total (approximately two pages if double-spaced), and divide the essay into two parts, as described below.

Part 1. Discuss:

- Your interest in participating in the Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) program
- How participation will fit into your goals; e.g., pursuit of graduate- or professional-level work in a specific discipline or area
- The science questions that intrigue you and the reason(s) they do
- The area in which you would like to conduct research. Be specific about your interests, as this will help facilitate your placement

Part 2. Discuss:

- Your relevant background - academic, personal, and service
- The special strengths, interests and personal qualities that you bring to the program
- What you hope to gain from participating in the program

Biographical Sketch

On a separate page, provide a short summary (100 words maximum) of your:

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

The biographical sketch should be in a publishable form that is suitable for formal submission (such as to the National Science Foundation). Samples are provided below.

Sample 1.

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 a dual citizen of Cameroon and the United States. Eve's hobbies include aerobics, music, reading, skydiving and community service.

Sample 2.

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