

Writing a Personal Statement

Personal Statement Sample

Please see the below personal statement example. For your convenience, this example has been segmented according to the following sections:

1. Explicit mention of the fellowship/opportunity and why you are applying
2. An introduction to your research and service background
3. An introduction and preamble to the research and research question
4. How the fellowship/opportunity will help facilitate your research project

However, when creating your own personal statement, such headings should be removed.

Jane A. Doe
Personal Statement
January 1, 2023

Dear Office of Undergraduate Research (OUR) Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship Committee,

Explicit mention of the fellowship/opportunity and why you are applying:

It is with great enthusiasm that I submit my application for the 2023 Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship. As a first-generation student from an underserved minority group, I am excited to have the opportunity to further my research agenda and expand UNLV's academic footprint in the study of political science.

Elections have consequences. This axiomatic statement sums up the salience of electoral studies. The aftermath of elections not only decides government makeup but also policymaking. Often times, election results are predicted ahead of the actual vote (e.g. 2008 U.S. Presidential elections). There are, however, outliers where predictability does not come to fruition (e.g. 2016 U.S. Presidential elections). Thus, the study of elections is as dynamic as it is salient.

An introduction and preamble to the research and research question:

In Nevada, the impact of elections is especially important due to the size of the Latino voting community. Despite its growth, research into this distinct voting group is still scarce. My current research focuses on the vote calculus within the Latino electorate. Do Latino voters maintain a varying vote calculus? Are there sociological differences that correspond to political preferences? Finally, what are the [hypothetical] vote functions of undocumented respondents?

Being awarded OUR's Fellowship will provide the financial tools necessary to address these questions. Specifically, the funds will assist in the purchase of a national dataset (Latino Immigrant National Election Study, or LINES) that evaluates Latino immigrant political behavior. This dataset will be used towards research on the behavioral traits of Latino immigrant voters in Nevada. LINES gauges both documented as well as undocumented voters and asks them a series of political questions, including voting behavior. Thus, possession of LINES is essential to my current research agenda as well as my growth as an undergraduate researcher.

How the fellowship/opportunity will help facilitate your research project:

I will complete this project under the guidance of my faculty research mentor, Dr. XXX. Recently, we had the opportunity to present a manuscript, titled "A Tale of Two Elections: The 2008 and 2016 U.S. Presidential Elections", at the American Political Science Association (APSA) conference. As the sole undergraduate UNLV student, I had a distinct opportunity to display UNLV's undergraduate research footprint. The positive remarks received at APSA has led us to submit this manuscript for publication.

An introduction to your research and service background:

My academic accolades are not limited to the research domain. Since attending UNLV, I have maintained a 4.0 grade point average and have been a member of Pi Sigma Alpha, the National Political Science Honor Society. I have also participated in the OUR undergraduate research symposium and volunteer with Three Square, a local organization that provides wholesome food to hungry people.

At UNLV, undergraduate research is student-centric, faculty-driven, and institutionally supported. UNLV's commitment to fostering the growth of undergraduate research is embodied through the Top Tier mission, which also includes bridging UNLV with the greater Las Vegas community. After all, research must have practical and community-based implications. .

Thank You for your consideration,
Jane A. Doe