

Introduction to Research Statements

Session Description (11:00 - 12:10pm):

This session is designed to “jump start” the writing process for those who have yet to draft a research statement and will include discussion of key aspects of research statements intended for a particular type of institution (e.g., liberal arts college, research university).

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disclaimer: below are Dr. Kirby's opinions based on 13 years experience...obviously, there are many other views on how to write a research statement...please consider them all, as appropriate

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- Let's do something fun!
- Let's talk about key points.
- Let's write an outline.



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Part I. (5 minutes) Divide into groups of five based on your intention or preference to apply to:

- a) Liberal Arts Colleges
- b) Masters only granting institutes
- c) PhD granting institutes

AUDIENCE, AUDIENCE, AUDIENCE!!!

Where you apply matters...so, where are you applying?

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Part 2. (15 minutes) This is where you are applying...

- a) Liberal Arts Colleges - *Hamilton College*
- b) Masters only granting institutes - *Cal State Fullerton*
- c) PhD granting institutes - *Syracuse University*

What to do?

Spend 10 minutes “researching” your institute above (Geoscience related department or similar)...next slide. Work together!

Also, assume that you are applying to the institute above for an advertisement *specific* to your general expertise (e.g., sed/strat or geochemistry or hydrology or climate modeling or mineralogy or structural geology, etc.)

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What to do?

What have you learned about your audience in terms of what they want, expect, and other relevant issues related to research? Use key words and bullet points.

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Q & A (10 minutes)

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Part 3. (10 minutes) What to do?

Spend 10 minutes highlighting your research and what you want to communicate in the context of your specific audience. Use key words and bullet points. Work together as appropriate!

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Q & A (10 minutes)

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Part 4. (5 minutes) Did you consider - in no particular order.

- a) type of institute?
- b) type of department?
- c) type of faculty - in general?
- d) potential collaborating faculty?
- e) likely selection committee?
- f) student research - BA, BS, MS, PhD, post-docs?
- g) how you will make your research statement stand out from the other 50-90 that the selection committee will read?
- h) why is your research significant?
- i) what “tool belt” you wear?
- j) what are your research goals?
- k) how you will fund your research?
- l) your statement’s wording? jargon, technical, boring, arrogant, unprofessional, poorly written, spelling errors, font type, font size?

