

Vanier Writing Tips

Leadership Statement

- ✓ Must be more than a simple list of accomplishments
 - ✓ Must show how leadership has affected your doctoral research
 - ✓ Speak about **evidence** of your success/impact/effectiveness
 - ✓ Focus on **actions** you took rather than positions held
 - ✓ How have your leadership skills helped you achieve your goals?
 - ✓ Use words/comments from other sources as evidence
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- how you created opportunities for yourself
 - how you motivated others
 - how you took responsibility
 - how you overcame obstacles
 - how you effected change

If your leadership experiences are part of employment and/or volunteer activities listed on CV, then be sure to describe how your contribution went **beyond the expectations** of your position

Possible achievements/roles (discuss 2 or 3 in depth rather than 5-6 briefly):

- Roles in civic engagement: politics, activism, etc.
- Project management
- **NB: volunteerism, outstanding achievement in sports or the arts, and employment in leadership positions do not demonstrate leadership in and of themselves. When including leadership in these and other areas in your Personal Leadership Statement, be sure to outline how you have gone above and beyond the expected norms in those areas in order to overcome obstacles, foster others, spearhead change, or otherwise demonstrate leadership.**

Some questions you could answer in this statement:

- What led you to doctoral research?
- How have your life experiences and personal circumstances (*which may include administrative responsibilities, maternity/parental leave, childrearing, illness, cultural or community responsibilities, socio-economic context, trauma and loss, or health-related family responsibilities*) shaped your academic, research, and leadership choices, challenges, and successes?
- How has your life driven you to share and disseminate your research?
- How does your nominating institution provide an environment that nurtures your leadership skills?

Title of Research Proposal: limit of 640 characters

Lay title: limit of 200 characters

Lay Abstract/Summary: limit of 2000 characters

Lay Abstract

1. What is the research about?
2. Why is this project important?
3. To whom is this project important?
4. What results do you anticipate?
5. How are you contributing to your field of study?
6. How are you contributing to society – how is your work socially significant?

Research Proposal (use headings below)

Context – place your research into the existing dialogue of your research community (use citations, this is like a mini-literature review); discuss how your project will contribute to/broaden/deepen that community; show how it is original. This section answers the question: why is this research important?

Research Question and Objectives – pose an actual question that your research will answer and list the objectives of doing this work. This section will answer the question: what are you going to do in your research?

Theoretical Framework and/or Methodology – outline (with citations) your theoretical frames and/or your methodological approach. This section answers the question: how will you do this research?

Memorial University Collaboration – here you must show how/why doing this research at MUN is a good fit; supervisory strengths, departmental support, university research strategies; connections to local/provincial communities

Outcomes and Significance – here you need to detail the results/outcomes you expect and answer the questions: how will this research be significant to your field of study? And, how will this research contribute to society in general (Canada and beyond)?

Further important information

- Pages must be 8.5 x 11
- 2cm margins
- 12pt font (Arial or TNR)
- At the top of each page, indicate your name and title of the document, as it appears in the instructions online
- For multiple page attachments (like research proposal and citations) number the pages sequentially