



Workshop

CCFA



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MEMPHIS

Research Statement Workshop

College of
Communication
and Fine Arts



Research Statement Workshop

Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Reflect
3. Organize
4. Draft
5. Review

A vibrant stage performance featuring dancers in dynamic poses. One dancer in the foreground wears a white suit with blue patterns and a purple cape, looking intensely at the camera. Another dancer in a bright red suit with blue patterns is in a dynamic pose behind them. The background is dark with blue stage lighting. The word "Reflect" is overlaid in large, bold, white sans-serif font in the center of the image.

Reflect

Reflect



Reflect on Your Research

Reflecting on your Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity is crucial for understanding the impact of your work, refining your focus, and identifying opportunities for growth and innovation to advance your field and align with broader academic or societal goals.

Reflect

Where to Begin

- Begin by identifying the primary themes, questions, or topics in your research, scholarship, or creative work. Reflect on what drives your curiosity, the fundamental questions you aim to address, and the specific areas where you aim to contribute meaningfully.
- Make a list of your most significant projects, publications, creative works, etc. Think about how each contributes to your field, aligns with your interests, or demonstrates your creative vision and problem-solving approaches.
- Consider the direction you envision for your work in the next 5–10 years. Identify any emerging questions, new methods, or unexplored topics you wish to pursue and how these connect with trends or gaps in your field.



Reflect

Don't Forget to Include

- Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity honors and awards
- Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity grants and contracts (internal and external)





Organize

Organize

Organize Around Core Themes

Select the main components that will guide your statement on research, scholarship, and creative activity. Using a structure like GRIDS can help with cohesion.

- **Goals:** Define your primary objectives for advancing knowledge, creating impact, or exploring creative concepts within your field.
- **Rationale:** Explain why you choose specific research methods, frameworks, or creative approaches and how they address needs or gaps in your discipline.
- **Implementation:** Describe how you conduct and organize your research or creative work, including methods, processes, and collaborative efforts.
- **Development:** Emphasize how your research has evolved, adapted to new trends, and strengthened your expertise over time.
- **Success:** Show how you measure the impact and outcomes of your work, such as through publications, exhibits, citations, or recognition, and the broader significance of your contributions to the field.

A young man with dark dreadlocks is smiling and looking towards the camera. He is wearing a large black headset with a microphone. He is wearing a grey t-shirt with a blue and orange logo that says 'MEMPHIS BOUNTY' featuring a tiger. The background is a blurred broadcast studio with another person visible in the distance. The word 'Draft' is overlaid in large white text.

Draft

Draft

Draft an Outline

1. **Engaging Introduction:** Articulate the Purpose and Goals

- Start by outlining the primary goals of your research, scholarship, or creative activity. Describe the central themes or questions you aim to address, the impact you hope to achieve, and the overall vision for your work.
- Highlight any specific aspirations for the next stage of your work. This could include new areas of exploration, plans for interdisciplinary collaboration, or ways to broaden the scope or impact of your research.

2. **Rationale:** Explain the Motivation and Importance

- Describe why your research or creative activity is important to your field and the unique contribution it makes. Include any theoretical, practical, or cultural motivations that guide your work.
- Provide context for your chosen methods, frameworks, or themes. Explain why you pursued these specific approaches and how they align with gaps or emerging opportunities in your field.

3. **Implementation:** Describe Your Process and Methodologies

- Outline how you carry out your research or creative work. This can include your research methodologies, creative techniques, or any unique processes that contribute to the originality and rigor of your work.
- Mention any roles you take in leading or organizing projects, collaborations with colleagues or external partners, and responsibilities in facilitating the successful execution of your work.

Draft

Draft an Outline

4. **Development:** Highlight Your Growth and Adaptability

- Describe how your work has evolved throughout your career. Highlight new skills, methodologies, or theoretical insights you've gained and applied.
- Emphasize any steps taken to improve or expand your expertise, such as attending workshops, adopting new tools, or participating in training programs that have enriched your research or creative abilities.

5. **Success:** Demonstrate the Impact and Reach

- Highlight tangible outcomes, such as publications, awards, grants, exhibits, or other markers of recognition. This section should showcase the impact and reach of your work.
- Explain how your work has contributed to advancing knowledge, impacting your discipline, addressing societal needs, or fulfilling institutional goals. Where possible, mention metrics or examples of influence within or beyond academia.

6. **Conclusion:** Summarize Dedication and Future Vision

- Summarize your commitment to advancing knowledge and creative inquiry, highlighting the motivations and approaches that make your work significant. Emphasize the contributions of your research, scholarship, and creative activities to your field and their alignment with institutional and societal goals.
- Outline your future goals, focusing on expanding the scope and impact of your work through new research questions, interdisciplinary collaborations, or innovative methods. Reinforce your commitment to growth and to making a lasting impact within and beyond academia.

A photograph of three students in a computer lab. In the foreground, a young woman with long black and brown braids is looking at a computer screen. Behind her, a young man with short brown hair is also looking at the screen. In the background, another young woman with long brown hair is sitting at a desk, looking at a screen. The lab has several computer monitors, keyboards, and mice. A large screen in the background displays a website. The word "Review" is overlaid in the center of the image.

Review

Review

Review and Refine

- Aim for clear, direct language that conveys your values and accomplishments.
- Whenever possible, include examples from your research, scholarship, and creative activity to illustrate your points.
- Consider asking a colleague or mentor for feedback to ensure your statement resonates with your professional goals and achievements.





Questions

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