Writing a Personal Statement

The words in the statement represent who you are. Everything the reviewer knows about you is what they read.

Organize your thoughts, choose your words carefully and then write a great statement.

What to Include

- ✓ Explain why you are interested in participating in the SURF NIST, and what areas of NIST research are of interest to you and why

- ✓ Describe professional, educational, and/or personal experiences that contributed to your excitement about research or how you came to be competent to do the research

- ✓ Describe your leadership potential

- ✓ Discuss your career goals, including post graduate education and how the NIST experience will help you to meet them

Organize, Write, Edit, Rewrite

- Begin several weeks before the application is due

- Start with an outline or at least a set of bullets that set forth the points you want to make in the personal statement

- Write a complete draft, read and revise it

- Have a friend read the draft and tell you what the main points are. If the reader's list of main points does not match the points you wanted to make, revise the document again.

- Have the Writing Lab at Purdue critique your draft
    http://owl.english.purdue.edu/

- Make final revisions and proofread the document carefully to eliminate any grammar, spelling, or punctuation errors