



# How to Write a Statement of Research Goals

Writing a Statement of Research Goals (SRG) is simple, yet daunting. It is simple because there are numerous templates on how you may go about structuring your SRG, with negligible variations between them. Thus, you do not have to worry about how to structure your SRG. However, following is a set of guidelines that you should follow in order to write an effective SRG.

1. Describe your research objectives in detail. That is, what are the results that we can hope to see from your research?
2. Explicate the significance of your research, especially for others (and be specific about who will be the ones to benefit from it, and in what way).
3. Personalize the SRG by stating your reasons for wanting to do the research you want to do (note, this part is about laying bare what makes you tick). You can link/think back to your personal statement for this particular part.
4. Place your research in the context of your field of study, and your specific research interests within this field. That is, place your research in context with the work that has previously been done on the same topic.
5. Provide a rough sketch of the kind of work you intend to undertake and what you hope to learn from said work.
6. Lastly, link your research plans with your previous work experience and/or qualifications (to establish your authority) and mention how your future objectives are intimately tied to your current research plan (to demonstrate that you possess foresight).

The difficult part is then writing a concise answer to each of the above mentioned six points. One way of doing this is by thinking of your research as a form of storytelling or making a sales pitch (which it essentially is), and how best you can tailor the pitch to your specific audience? As such, give serious consideration to the narrative structure of your sales pitch.