**Reference Writers: FYI**  
**Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP)**

**Information from GRFP Essay Insights: Application Resources for the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program as of 8-21-12**  
http://grfpessayinsights.missouri.edu/writer.php

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**NSF's Aim with the GRFP**

"The program goals are 1) to select, recognize, and financially support individuals early in their careers with the demonstrated potential to be high achieving scientists and engineers, and 2) to broaden participation in science and engineering of underrepresented groups, including women, minorities, persons with disabilities, and veterans. GRFP is a critical program in NSF's overall strategy in developing the globally-engaged workforce necessary to ensure the Nation's leadership in advancing science and engineering research and innovation.” Source: NSF12-599 GRFP Solicitation.

Reference letters should provide evidence of the following:

- leadership potential,
- willingness to integrate science concepts into educational efforts, and
- ability to work proactively with people from diverse backgrounds in various types of settings.

Reference letter writers should also address the applicant's potential to:

- educate the public about research
- advance knowledge within and across disciplines
- become a scientific leader and
- help the U.S. workforce remain globally competitive in the STEM disciplines.

**GRFP FAQs for References:** Detailed instructions for using Fastlane and FAQ's for reference writers are found in the Applicant Help guide in Fastlane. Type the work "reference" in the Applicant Help guide's search box to locate Fastlane instructions. Type "reference FAQ" in the search box to find a list of frequently asked questions.