

## Writing a Diversity Statement (DS)



Celia M. Elliott

*Department of Physics*

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

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***Caveat Lector:***  
**These are my personal  
conjectures and  
opinions and may have  
zero coupling to reality**

**As in every other writing task,  
ask these two questions first:**

- 1. Who's the audience?  
(admissions committee [adcomm])**
- 2. What do they want to know?/What  
do I want to tell them?**

**Why would an adcomm ask for one?**

**Find out information that they cannot  
ask for legally**

- identify members of minority groups**
- identify "underrepresented"  
applicants (e.g., gender, disability)**

**Gauge your sensitivity to inclusiveness;  
predict how you will interact with others**

**Get another (truer?) measure of your  
writing skills**

**Most are marked “optional”**

**Why would you want to write one?**



- **Allows you to focus your SOP on physics and research and move personal details into a separate document**
- **Gives you another chance to sell yourself**
- **Gives you another chance to showcase what you’ve learned in P496 to set you apart from the other 692 applicants**
- **May qualify you for special financial support or increase your admit chances**

**Seems to be a bifurcation of DSs**

**How admitting you will increase the department's diversity**

- **ethnic background/minority status**
- **gender (if underrepresented)**
- **physical disability**
- **first-generation grad student**

**How you value diversity; will you contribute to inclusiveness?**