**My Past – What’s my history leading up to college?**

Guiding questions:

* How did you become interested in science? Was there a particular experience?
* How did you cultivate your interest in science?
* Did you engage in any particular STEM experiences? What sort of opportunities did you have? If you didn’t readily have any STEM opportunities, how did you go about creating opportunities to learn more? Describe your initiative.
* Did you grow up in an [EPSCoR jurisdiction](https://new.nsf.gov/funding/initiatives/epscor/state-websites)?
* Did your high school have opportunities for you to hone your interest in science?

Your turn:

**My Present – Where am I today: college, research, etc.?**

Guiding questions:

* What did you study in undergrad? Why? How did you first become interested in this particular path?
* What sort of experiences did you have in undergrad? Did you have the opportunity to work in a lab? Describe the lab, describe your individual contribution to that lab.
* Did you engage in any organizations – campus or otherwise – in college? What sort of community did you develop? Did you engage in outreach or take on a leadership role?
* Did you have any challenges as a student? How did you overcome these challenges and become a stronger student?
* Why did you decide to pursue graduate school? Why did you choose your particular program? Describe the ‘fit’ of your graduate program.
* What sort of experiences have you had as a graduate student so far – or in preparation for graduate school?
* If you spent time in industry, why are you returning to school now? What do you hope to accomplish?

Your turn:

**My Future – Where am I going from here?**

Guiding questions:

* What sort of career do you hope to pursue?
* How do you plan to continue work as a scientist? Traditionally this means becoming a faculty member and leading a research lab; however, this can be broad in however you define scientific work.
* What’s next for your research? Do you plan to publish? If so, in which journals are ideal? Do you hope to grow your initial research question or take your research project to a new level? Describe that next step.
* How do you see yourself as a leader? This can be in a work or research setting, civic/community/political environment, in an academic/industry role, etc.

Your turn: