What happens: When the NSF-GRFP extends fellowship offers (usually in March or April) all applicants receive email notification. The email will tell you how to access your reviewers’ comments. Panels and process vary (confidential GRFP information), but you will receive comments from 2 or 3 reviewers. The “decision” that reviewers must make: *Do I have adequate evidence that the NSF should invest in this person’s future?*

How to use the comments: Read the comments carefully. Analyze your strengths – which parts of your application captured the reviewers’ attention? Did you get all of your points across, or did they miss something? Were you equally strong in both scoring criteria? What suggestions did they make for strengthening your application? Discuss the comments with your mentor(s) and/or advisors.

“Sample” Comment Sheets
Ratings Sheet 1 of 3
Score for [Applicant name, Sample 1]

**Intellectual Merit Criterion**
*Overall Assessment of Intellectual Merit:* Very Good

Explanation to Applicant
This applicant has research experiences resulting in a patent, conference articles, and potential journal ones. However, she is less competitive on her academic preparation. Proposed research plan is well written.

**Broader Impacts Criterion**
*Overall Assessment of Broader Impacts:* Excellent

Explanation to Applicant
Applicant has participated in several community outreach activities and has proven her leadership traits. She has presented her research findings in several conference for the on and off campus audience.

Ratings Sheet 2 of 3

**Intellectual Merit Criterion**
*Overall Assessment of Intellectual Merit:* Very Good

Explanation to Applicant
This applicant shows impressive research background and ability to conduct scientific research. Publications. Based on the record, this applicant is also able to lead a project with minimal supervision. The research plan needs detail. Applicant has shown original thinking in the approaches.

**Broader Impacts Criterion**
*Overall Assessment of Broader Impacts:* Excellent

Explanation to Applicant
This applicant has demonstrated the ability to communicate the research for a large audience. This project has a clear impact on enhancing scientific understanding and benefit society. This applicant has also described the plan to involve women and minorities in the research and integrates research and education.

Ratings Sheet 3 of 3

**Intellectual Merit Criterion**
*Overall Assessment of Intellectual Merit:* Very Good

Explanation to Applicant
This candidate has an outstanding academic record with good GPA. Numerous awards. Innovative scientific research. Candidate presented at several conferences but needs more peer-reviewed manuscripts. The candidate has provided a comprehensive past to future research where the translational aspect has been apparent. In additional, the proposed research has great scientific merit for enhancing current level of understanding.

**Broader Impacts Criterion**
*Overall Assessment of Broader Impacts:* Very Good

Explanation to Applicant
Candidate has potential to reach diverse audiences. In addition, has taught and mentored peers. Can integrate research and education at various levels. Would be more competitive with international outreach or enhanced scientific understanding in general. and progress society through scientific development.