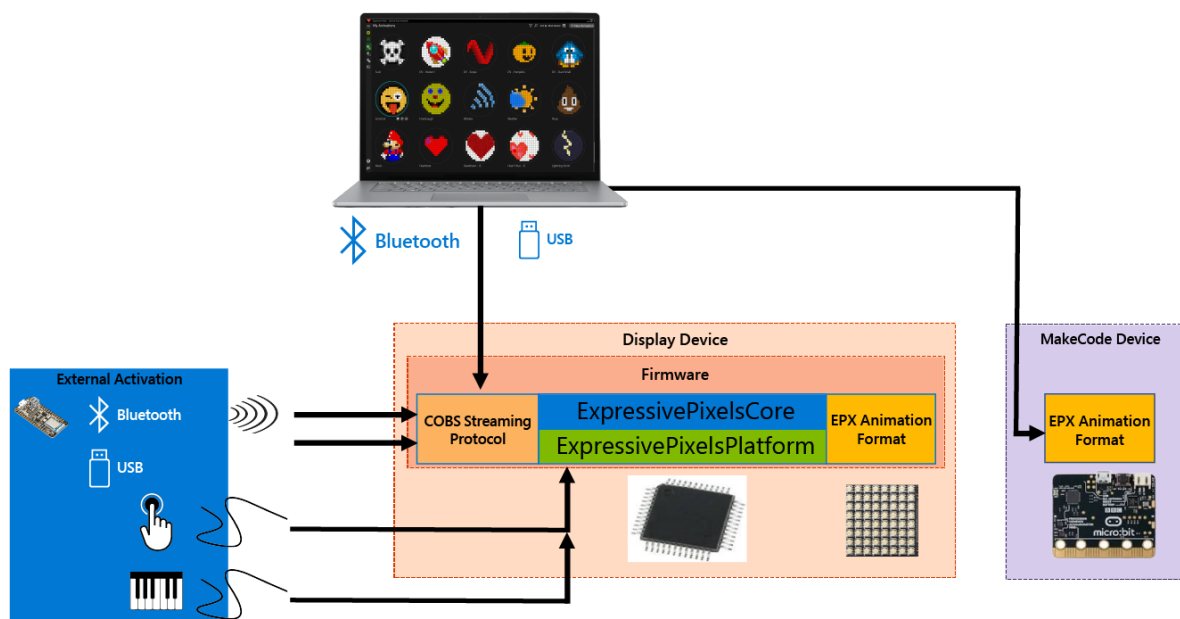


## Highlighted work for Microsoft Research: 2019-2021

The work below represents a small sampling of work I did for [Microsoft Research](#) as part of the digital engagement team. My time as Content Writer and Lead Editor included a dynamic range of short-term and long-term projects from one-off social media posts to multi-year storytelling strategies. My responsibilities grew from writing and editing blog posts to managing the full editorial calendar and leading an experienced team of content creators.

### A “modular” blog post: Expressive Pixels

Link: <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/research/blog/expressive-pixels-a-new-visual-communication-platform-to-support-creativity-accessibility-and-innovation/>



**This piece demonstrates how I’m able to creatively interweave a straightforward technology release with its human elements and impacts.**

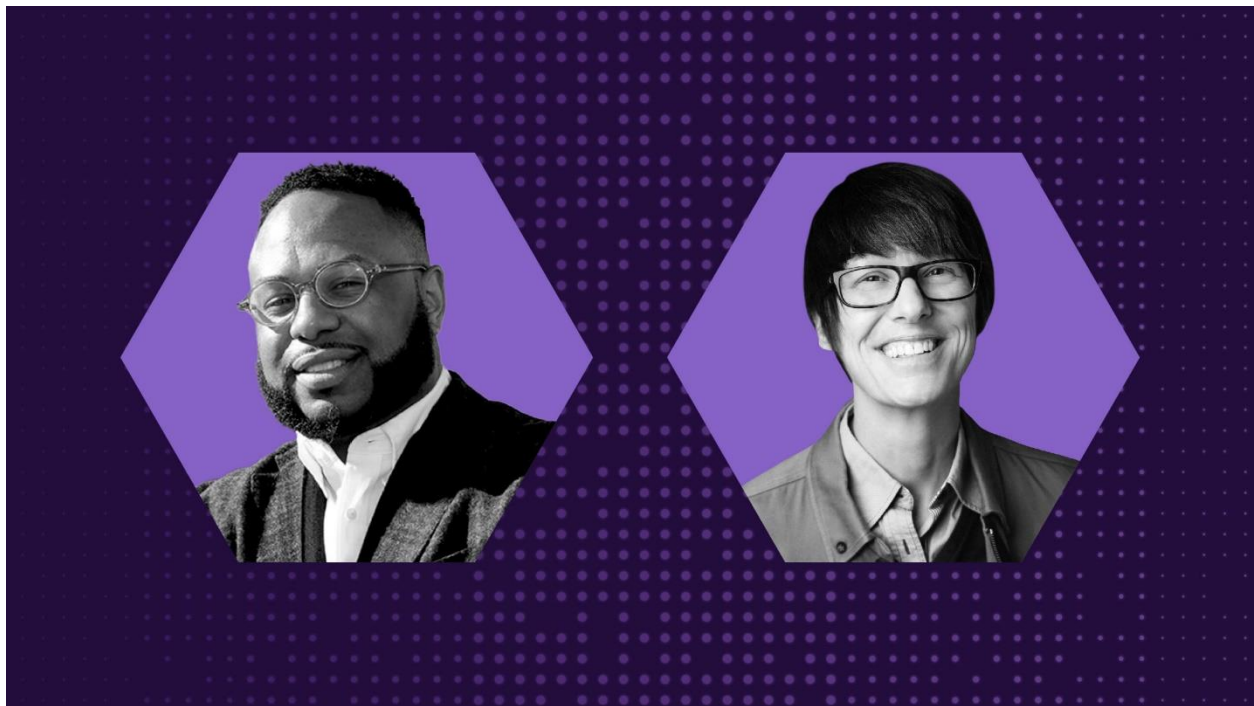
The Expressive Pixels blog post was challenging because there were a lot of stories to tell. Since the product was inherently a journey story about bringing multiple research teams and technologies together, I thought it would be nice to create a few different “modular” pieces of writing that took readers on an

exploration of the many aspects of the technology but worked together in long form.

I started with two paragraphs that covered the story in a straight journalistic sense—including a link to download the app for easy access. Next, I included an origin story that centered around the people in the PALS community and worked with an accessibility researcher to make sure the language reflected the group’s belief that technology should be built alongside communities as opposed to for them. This technology also had a “makers” appeal, so I wanted to show how the hardware for the technology had been fashioned from the ground up by its creator. Overall, the people involved illuminated the scope of the research’s potential without overshadowing the technology itself.

Podcast episode: “Just Tech” episode 1

Link: <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/research/podcast/just-tech-centering-community-driven-innovation-at-the-margins-episode-1-with-desmond-patton-and-mary-gray/>



**This podcast episode shows my project management capabilities, willingness to go out of my comfort zone, and attention to process from start to finish.**

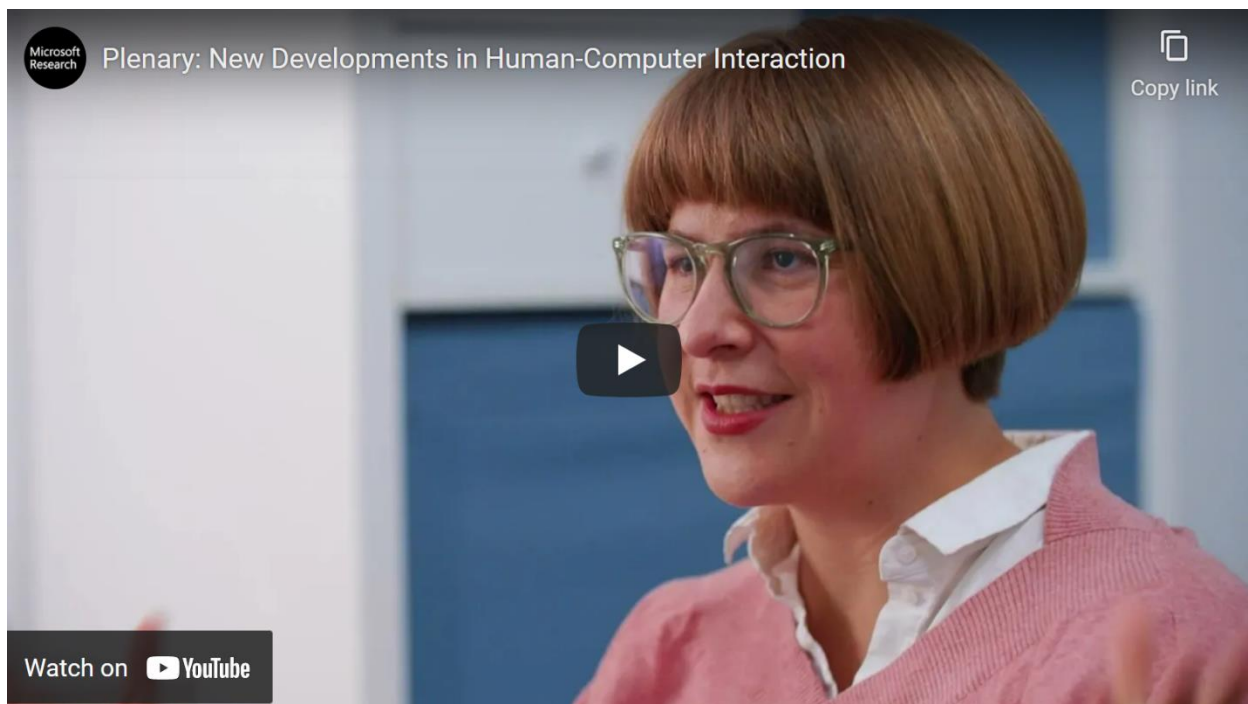
Producing an interview-style podcast without a traditional, regular host posed a number of issues upfront. When asked to take on the project of developing a new

format, I thought about backward design—what would it take to help prepare a subject matter expert to act as host? Over the course of a few series, I ultimately learned that preparation mattered most. This meant creating guides and templates for the researchers to follow to create the best types of questions that fit our audience.

Since many of the guests we had on the show were cross-disciplinary researchers with work that extended beyond technology, one of my roles entailed helping the researchers decipher the content that would best appeal to the podcast's audience. This episode is a good example of how preparation made for a good flow during the recording. This helped with my post-production duties—editing the transcript for content alongside an audio engineer and drafting show notes benefitted from the end-to-end due diligence.

Keystone video: Plenary for Microsoft Research Summit 2021

Link: <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/research/video/plenary-new-developments-in-human-computer-interaction/>



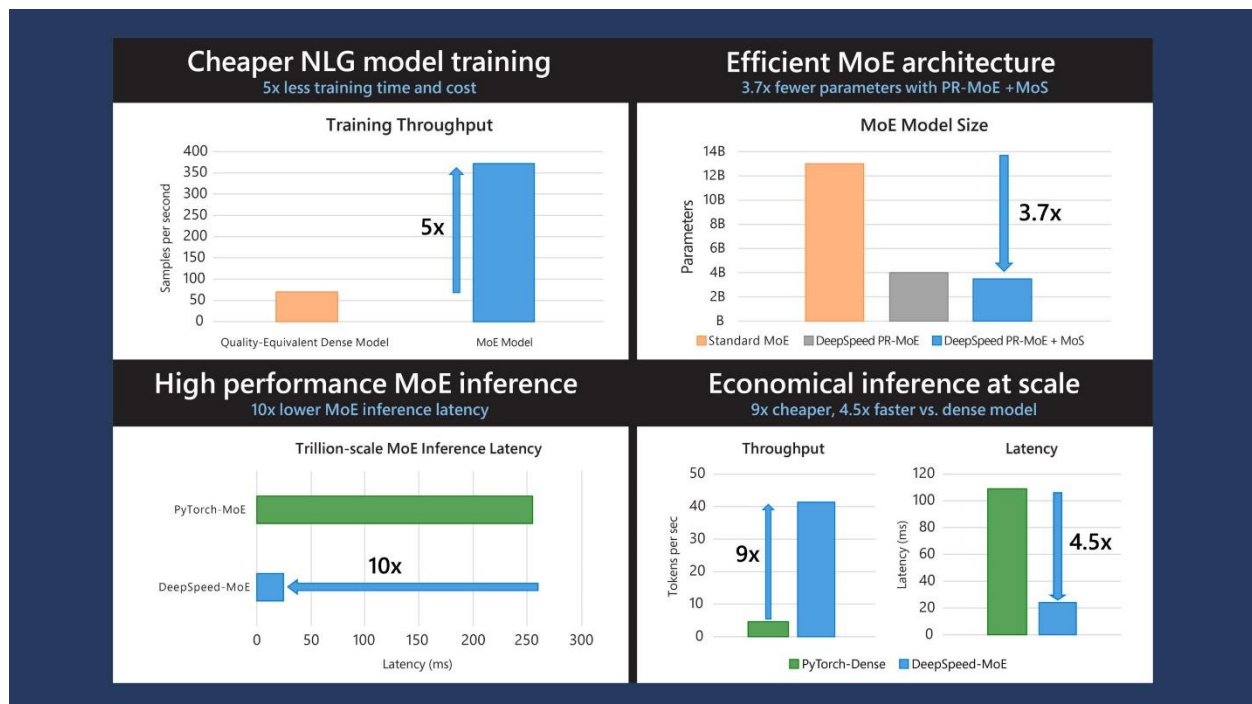
**This plenary for Microsoft's inaugural Research Summit highlights my ability to take on multifaceted projects, executing content at a high level under pressure.**

We had about a two-week timeline to produce this video. I worked with my manager, a video production team, and the researchers to pull this together. My duties included scripting some of the intro sections for each segment, storyboarding segments, working with researchers to develop and select footage for their segments, paper edits in collaboration with a post-production video editor, and writing and editing a number of written pieces for the segment.

The most challenging and most enjoyable element of this video was creating a cohesion between the different pieces of technology through thematic and individual storytelling. The ultimate goal was to show the researchers as people and put the “human” in human computer interaction, and we achieved this by encapsulating the personalities of each of the researchers while effectively sharing their work.

Long-tail collection: AI at Scale timeline

Link: <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/research/project/ai-at-scale/timeline/>



**The AI at Scale timeline represents my ability to establish momentum for a niche topic area over time.**

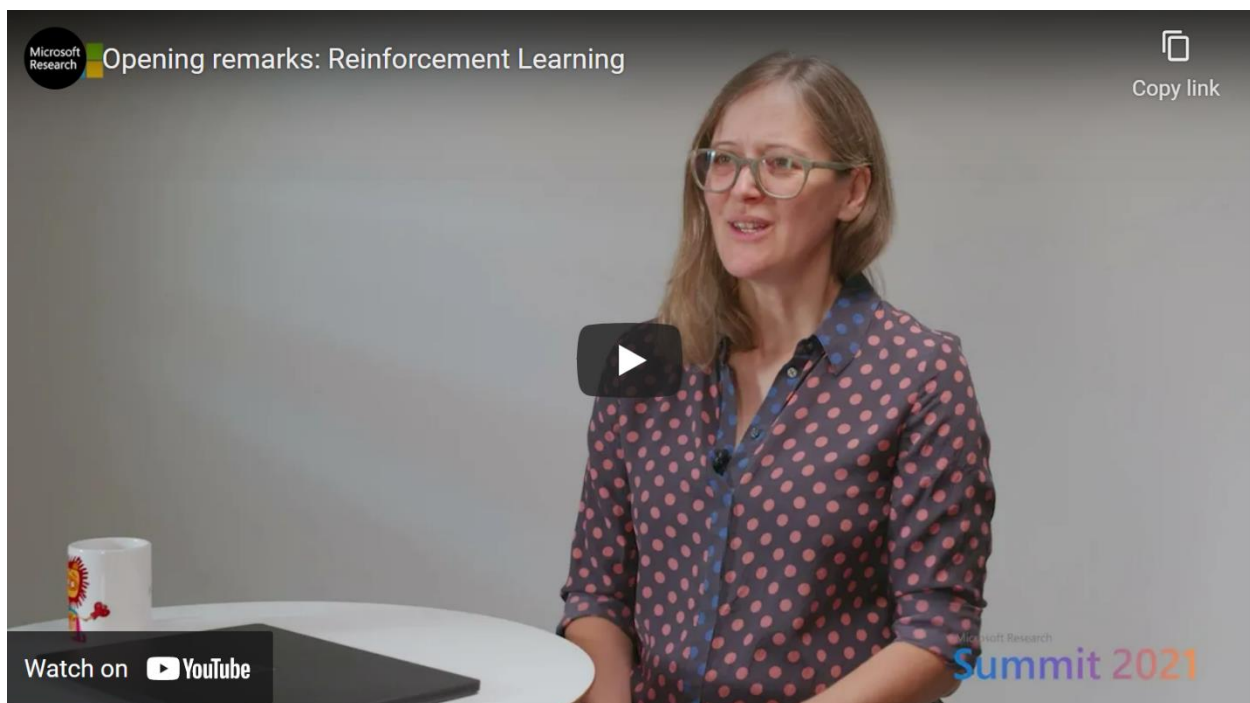
Over the course of about two years, I was the main writer/editor for a series of posts promoting various technologies that harnessed the power of large language

models, eventually expanding into developing for computer vision and beyond. I helped to write and edit [a series of technical posts focused on a single technology](#), called Deepspeed, and I also worked on posts that established how AI research was helping key products get better. One example is my work on [Speller100](#). This campaign was ignited by a viral moment introducing both Deepspeed and [Turning-NLG](#), which set a new record for page views and other metrics on the Microsoft Research blog at the time.

The results of this long-spanning campaign included both external and internal recognition for the teams involved, and in year 2 of the campaign, the work to promote Deepspeed was directly cited by a number of recruits as a reason for wanting to join the team. I wrote the initial published version of the timeline in 2021, which features many of the technologies I wrote blogs and marketing materials for, and it has been maintained by the research team since then.

Opening remarks: Reinforcement Learning track at Microsoft Research Summit 2021

Link: <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/research/video/opening-remarks-reinforcement-learning/>



**This video shows my versatility in writing and editing. My unique combination of skills benefits final products, whether those are blogs, tutorials, monologues, website copy, or other forms of content.**

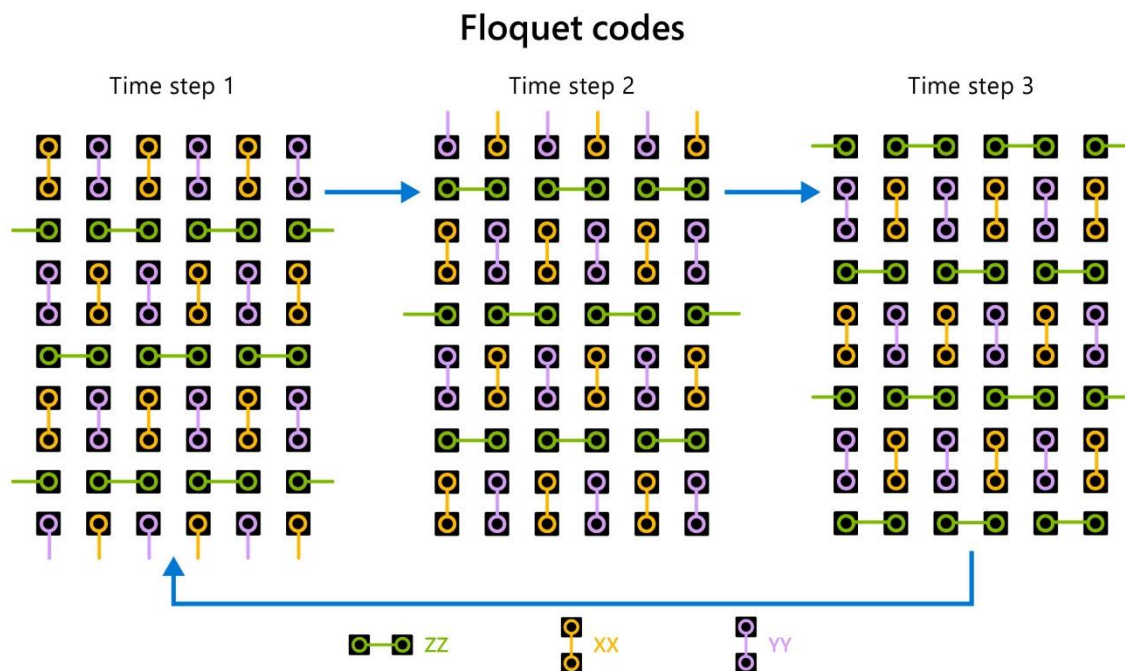


The assignment was to write an approximately 5-minute video script that set the stage for presentations in reinforcement learning at Microsoft Research Summit. The challenge in reinforcement learning was the breadth of topics and the topic's specialized nature. After drafting the script, I worked with the researcher to revise for her voice and correct any technical inaccuracies.

Part persuasive speech, part conference overview, part thematic narrative—I felt that this speech achieved each of the many goals for this video and did so in a way that reflected the professional persona of the speaker.

Blog post series: Quantum computing

Link: <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/research/blog/azure-quantum-innovation-efficient-error-correction-of-topological-qubits-with-floquet-codes/>



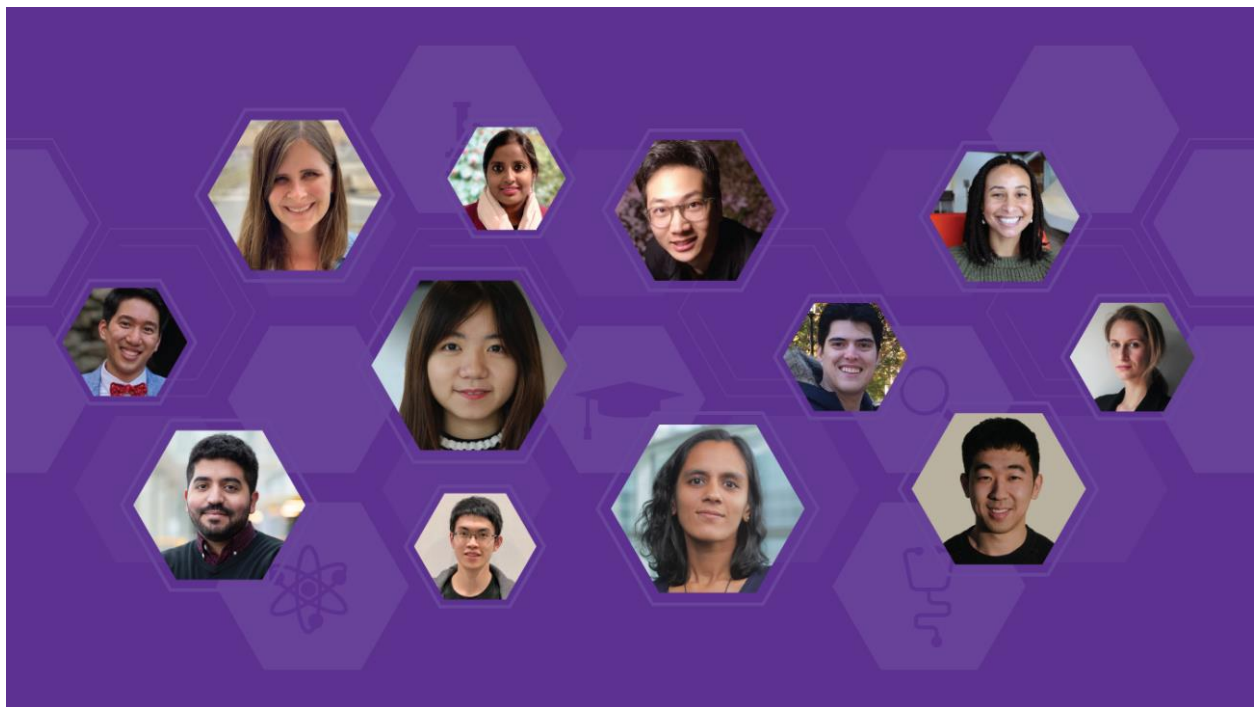
**My work with quantum computing demonstrates how I can inform storytelling about complex ideas and scaffold for various audiences.**

I worked on a number of [blog posts related to quantum computing](#) with several research teams. In some cases, I was asked to write a piece based on papers, articles, and interviews. In others, I was tasked with working alongside stakeholders to make sure information was both accurate and appropriately accessible to a target audience.

This piece shows my ability to provide significant developmental editing and feedback to find the balance between high-level information about a topic while also dialing in on the details of a scientific breakthrough that appeals to a more specialized audience.

Feature blog post: Ada Lovelace and PhD scholarships

Link: <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/research/blog/2020-ada-lovelace-and-phd-fellowships-help-recipients-achieve-broad-research-and-educational-goals/>



**This piece shows I can adapt my writing voice to different styles and goals. I am comfortable interviewing subjects, whether in writing or over a call, and can create stories that interweave the voices of the people featured in a story while elevating their work.**

I wanted to include a more straightforward blog post in this collection. With this assignment, I was asked to use the pieces of information already provided by the researchers via a survey to craft the story. This illustrates my brand of storytelling in that I believe it's important to put people at the forefront—taking into account aims, audiences, and impacts of a story.