

SOURCE Workshop:
Social Science
Personal Statements

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Outline

Defining a Personal Statement

Structure of a Personal Statement

Tips and Reminders of a Personal Statement

Resources for Personal Statements

Moving Forward

What is a **Personal Statement**?

A 1 - 2 page story about:

- Academics
- Achievements
- Aspirations

Statements from CWRU Social Science Faculty

“We are looking for clear indications that the student understands what medical anthropology is....”

“When discussing academic topic, give examples of research questions you would like to potentially pose in your work....”

“I would much rather hear about work that changed them, motivated them....I want to know what kind of impact the work may have had on them and the impact it could have on their field....”

“Students need to have the ability to think independently...”

Structure of a Personal Statement

Intro, Body, Conclusion

Academic Work/Research

Connection to Prospective Course of Study

Excellent Writing and Grammar

Intro, Body, Conclusion

Introduction:

Attention Getter, Preview

Body:

Academics, Achievements, Aspirations

Conclusion:

Signpost, Review

What does Academic Work entail?

Undergraduate Research

CWRU Research Presentations

Regional and Conference Presentations

Related Coursework

Senior Capstone

Connection to Prospective Course of Study

Connecting previous work with Prospective Institution(s)

Connecting academic interests with Prospective Department(s)

Connecting academic interests with Prospective Faculty

***Key Point: Establish FIT and MATCH!**

Excellent Writing

Read Exemplary Samples

Online

Ask SOURCE

Outline it

Write a Draft

Request Input from Experts

Friends (who write well)

Faculty (who care)

SOURCE staff

Do Not's of a Personal Statement...

Do NOT use the same personal statement for each school

Do NOT assume schools are always looking for a 'personal' story; be authentic

Avoid Cliches'

Avoid Claims and Opinions

Tips and Reminders

10. Demonstrate Intellectual Curiosity
9. Describe how PERSONAL experience led to RQs
8. Highlight aspirations to work with specific faculty
7. Mention more than one faculty; they leave, retire, etc.
6. Have a conversation with faculty at prospective institution

Top 10 Personal Statement TIPS (ct'd)

5. Discuss future goals, and why grad degree is necessary
3. Reframe negative stuff in positive way (see flier)
2. Be specific about academic interests, but open to change
1. Establish a balance between Personal and Professional

Let's Review a Sample

More Resources for Personal Statements

Websites:

[What is a Personal Statement](#), Loyola University Maryland

[Writing a Winning Statement for Grad School](#) Go Grad

[Tips for Writing a Personal Statement](#), Carnegie Mellon U

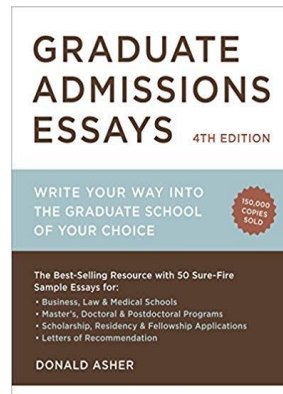
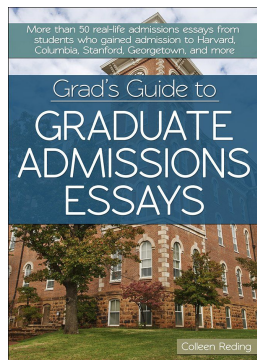
[How to write a Personal Statement](#), Purdue University Writing Center

[Writing Personal Statements for Grad School](#), Yale University Writing Center

Presentation:

[Graduate Admissions Expert Presentation](#), Donald Asher, PhD

Books:



Going Forward

Establish Deadlines for Graduate Application(s)

Take advantage of CWRU Resources

SOURCE Office

Career Center (CV's, Interviewing, etc.)

Faculty

Administrators

“The most successful people ask the most questions”
(Dr. Pringle, Kent State)

Questions



GOOD
LUCK!