



DEMYSTIFYING THE PERSONAL AND DIVERSITY STATEMENTS IN GRADUATE SCHOOL APPLICATIONS

09.12.2018

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Yale Graduate School of
Arts and Sciences



What We Will Cover Today

Components of the Graduate School Application

Letters of Recommendation

The Personal Statement

The Diversity Statement

Future Webinars

Questions



Components of the Graduate School Application



Components of the PhD Application

The Online Application: Demographic and Institutional Information

Personal Statement

Transcript(s)

Diversity Statement

Letters of Recommendation

GRE score(s)

CV/Resume

Special Requirements: writing sample, book review, etc.

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

Recommenders submit their letters of recommendation for you online. Once you identify a recommender they will receive an email providing instructions and access information.



- **Categories**
 - Academic performance
 - Intellectual potential
 - Motivation for proposed area of study
- **Possible Rankings**
 - Lowest 50%
 - Top 50%
 - Top 25%
 - Top 5%
 - Truly Exceptional

PERSONAL STATEMENT



- **Emphasize**
 - Past work
 - Preparation for intended field of study
 - Relevant background and interests
 - Academic plans
 - Career objectives

PERSONAL STATEMENT



- Formulate a **thoughtful, compelling** and **persuasive** presentation of your own personal story
- It should be a response to specific questions or requested information
- **It should hold the reader's interest**

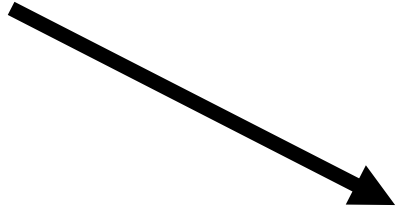
PERSONAL STATEMENT



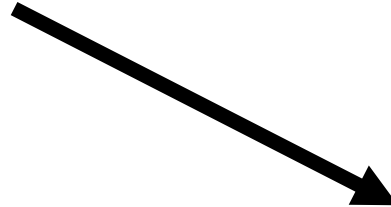
- **How to begin**
 - a. Imagine that you have 5 minutes with someone from the Admissions Committee
 - b. How would you go about making the best case for yourself while holding the listener's interest?
 - c. What would you include and omit in your story?

PERSONAL STATEMENT

You



Your Experiences



Your Goals

PERSONAL STATEMENT



- Why am I choosing to attend Graduate School?
- Why am I interested in (*specific field*)?
- Why did I choose to apply to this particular Graduate School?
- What are my specific qualifications?
- What is special, unique, or impressive about my life story?

PERSONAL STATEMENT



- **Tips**
 - Avoid clichés and unfamiliar acronyms.
 - Do not plagiarize.
 - Organize your thoughts.
 - Have a strong and original introduction, and ending.
 - Do not repeat at length information in a CV or resume.
 - *Stay upbeat.*

The Personal Statement

What should the Personal Statement cover?

- ❖ Background Information: Keep it brief and relevant
- ❖ Your motivation for pursuing a PhD
- ❖ Academic/Research Experience: highlight and explain the significance of your qualifications. Don't replicate the CV
- ❖ Your broader goals and motivations
- ❖ Other areas or issues arising from your CV
- ❖ *Create base template; customize for each school/program*

The Diversity Statement

How would your prior experience(s) aid in, and contribute to, the diverse learning community at Institution X?

- ❖ Experiences or events that help(ed) shape your understanding of diversity and inclusion
- ❖ How have you incorporated elements of diversity/equity/inclusion in your research or co-curricular activities?
- ❖ How your understanding of these issues impact your future research and involvement in the community you are seeking to join?
- ❖ How do elements of your identity inform your outlook?

Upcoming Webinars

October 8, 2018

3:00PM EST

Chemistry @ Yale

October 30, 2018

3:00PM EST

Graduate Admissions at Yale

November 1, 2018

5:00PM EST

Geology/Geophysics @ Yale

November 7, 2018

3:00PM EST

Yale Combined Program in the Biological and Biomedical Sciences (BBS)

November 28, 2018

3:00PM EST

SURF and the Value of Summer Research

December 10, 2018

3:00PM EST

PREP and Considering Post-Baccalaureate Programs

gsas.yale.edu/diversity

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VIRTUAL INFORMATION SESSIONS



Hosted by the Office for Graduate Student Development and Diversity, we are committed to



Questions?

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