ENGLISH FOR PERSONAL STATEMENTS

INTERNATIONAL TEACHING ASSISTANT PROGRAM

CENTER FOR INTENSIVE ENGLISH STUDIES

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

PERSONAL STATEMENT VS STATEMENT OF PURPOSE?

Features	Personal Statement	Statement of Purpose
Needed for graduate school and fellowship applications	☑	☑
1 to 2 pages in length	☑	☑
Vary by culture and country	☑	☑
Evaluation of **personal** thoughts, feelings, and reflection (in relation to the application requirements)	☑	
Evaluation of what the applicant has done and plans to do **academically**		☑

PREPARATION: LOOKING AT YOU

- Unique attributes of your personal life story

- Your field of interest, why you chose it

- Personal success factors

- Goals (short and long term)

- What are you hoping to do with your education/award and how might it help you achieve your goal?

- Values, interests, and skills

PREPARATION: LOOKING AT THEM

What is the program looking for in ideal candidates?

- Carefully read about the program's mission, vision, values, current research, faculty, curriculum, etc.

What is the school/committee specifically asking for?

- <u>READ the question prompts carefully and be sure to answer EVERY aspect of the prompt</u>

- EXPLAIN how you meet the specified qualifications

- SHOW how your values/goals/aspirations match those of the organization, program, and/or school

HOW DO I ALIGN MY STORY WITH THE APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS?

From an international fellowship application specifically for women:

Preference is given to women who show prior commitment to the advancement of women and girls through civic, community, or professional work.

What kind of information would you need to include in a personal statement for this application?

LET'S PRACTICE!

See your handout for a sample personal statement with questions.

MORE PRACTICE: OPENINGS

Which one of these openings seems more compelling? Why?

- I was a good student in school and I have always wanted to be a teacher. I want to help students learn and grow. My goal is to foster their critical thinking abilities and to help them flourish academically…

- Every morning at 10:00 a.m. I come face to face with the power of language to free; it happens in a classroom. The students I teach at Seattle Central Community College come from night work in an industrial bakery, from a Vietnamese refugee camp, from a 9-to-5 job in a car wash, or from the day care center where they've left their children…

SENTENCES FOR PRACTICE 1

- I'm a fourth year student at the Florida State University, pursuing a Ph.D. degree in Computer Science.

- The two biggest research interests of mine divide into two large themes: linear modeling and machine learning methods.

SENTENCES FOR PRACTICE II

- After doing research on programs in my field, I found that the XXXXX program in Florida State University is the most appropriate program to further my professional development.

- As a high performance student in my high school, I went to schools for free because of all kinds of scholarship I won.

SENTENCES FOR PRACTICE III

- As a teacher of a course in public administration , I excel at clearly and effectively presenting government findings to other people, and I enjoy giving a presentation.

- I have worked as an instructor at the Center for Intensive English Studies for 5 years. CIES offers intensive English courses as well as…

SENTENCES FOR PRACTICE IV

- I received a $5,000 scholarship from XXX Foundation to cover a portion of my tuition at FSU.

- Therefore, I am applying for the scholarship to support my study in FSU.

RESOURCES

- **Personal Statements from Purdue's OWL:** https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/642/1/

- **Personal Statements for Fellowships from Profellow:**
https://www.profellow.com/tips/5-powerful-personal-statement-openings-of-fellowship-winners/

- **FSU's Office of Graduate and Fellowship Awards:** http://ogfa.fsu.edu/

- **Academic Phrasebank—an excellent resource for academic writing:**
http://www.phrasebank.manchester.ac.uk/introducing-work/