TIPS ON PERSONAL STATEMENTS

WHAT IS IT?
A summary of the personal and academic experiences that make you an ideal candidate for a specific educational program (may be referred to as a Statement of Interest, Statement of Purpose, or a Letter of Intent). It allows you to supply evidence of how you match the program’s objectives and what unique attributes you have to offer.

BEFORE YOU WRITE
- Research the school and the program
- Each statement needs to be tailored.
- Follow any specific guiding questions or topics that are provided,
- Check for a page limit/word count for your statement
- 'Hook statements' entice the reader
- Include an interesting piece of your story that parallels the program
- Give an overview of the topics that will formulate the structure for the remainder of your statement
- Why have you chosen this field of study?
- What makes you qualified? What makes you unique?
- How does this program/opportunity align with your career goals?

WHAT TO INCLUDE
INTRODUCTION
- 'Hook statements' entice the reader
- Include an interesting piece of your story that parallels the program
- Give an overview of the topics that will formulate the structure for the remainder of your statement

BODY PARAGRAPHS
- Highlight education and relevant key projects
- Relevant accomplishments achieved through volunteering, or work experiences
- What makes the program unique? Why do you want to pursue your studies there?

CONCLUSION
- Reiterate your interest in the specific program or opportunity

FINAL TIPS
- Read the requirements for each school
- Be genuine, honest and show your excitement about the program
- Keep the personal statement succinct and clear
- Have others proofread your personal statement
- Ensure that all the information you provide is accurate
- Start early- writing a good personal statement takes time

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