

NATIONALLY  
COMPETITIVE  
SCHOLARSHIPS  
& FELLOWSHIPS

Personal Statements

# PLAN

- ⦿ Focused vision for future and your place in world
- ⦿ Desire to make a difference
- ⦿ Goals to fulfill vision
- ⦿ Passion
- ⦿ Commitment

# REFLECT ON LONG-TERM GOALS

***Take time to think about where you see your life headed.***

- What's important to you? What kind of work do you hope to do? What do you hope to achieve?
- What personal, professional or educational *experiences* have contributed to your preparation and desire to pursue graduate study?
- What *examples* of leadership skills and unique characteristics do you bring to your chosen field and how you do see yourself now or in the future contributing to research, education, and innovations in your area?

# PERSONAL STATEMENT

- ⦿ What personal and individual strengths make you a qualified applicant?
- ⦿ How will receiving the fellowship contribute to your career goals?
- ⦿ Thinking about these issues will help you articulate your interests and goals in personal statements and will help you decide what classes to take, what groups to get involved with, what work to pursue outside of class.

# PERSONAL STATEMENT

Develop a narrative that shows how what you've done (and what you're doing now) fits in with your long-term goals and demonstrates your potential to be a future leader in your field.

- Think about how you would tell your life story
  - What key events in your past have led you to where you are now?
  - Where do you see yourself headed in 5-10 years?
  - What are the main things you're doing now that are preparing you for that future?
- Try to develop a thread or theme that connects your past to your present and to your (planned) future.

# QUESTIONS TO ASK?

- ⦿ Why are you fascinated by your research and/or study area?
- ⦿ How does the information in your essay address the criteria?

# WRITE FOR 20 MINUTE READ (SPEED READER)

Use

- ⦿ sub-headings
- ⦿ font styles
- ⦿ white space
- ⦿ bold and (to lesser extent) underline
- ⦿ tables, figures, boxes
- ⦿ list and timetables

# RESOURCES

<https://www.e-education.psu.edu/writingpersonalstatementsonline/>

## Coordinators:

Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences,

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