Summer Opportunities Workshop

November 6, 2015
3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Co-hosted by:
Texas Institute for Discovery Education in Science (TIDES)
Science Undergraduate Research Group (SURGe)

Presenters:
Lynda Gonzales (TIDES)
Eman Ghanem (FRI)
Melanie Hooper (Career Services)
Writing a Personal Statement

Write a personal statement

I don't even know who I am anymore
What Readers Look for in a Personal Statement

- A story! A mental picture of who you are as a person as it relates to your “fit” for the position
- Maturity, self-knowledge, purpose, drive
- Evidence you have done your homework
- Writing skills and articulateness
It is a Process...

- Discuss the development of your interest (anecdote)
- Sell your unique strengths, leadership qualities, experience, and academic preparation for the position
- How will this experience contribute to the success of your future (outlined) plans/career goals
1. Discuss the development of your interest as an anecdote-Grabs the reader’s attention

• The best way to persuade is with true facts!

  • Describe SPECIFIC experiences that helped you explore and identify your career interest
  • Significant role models and influences?
  • This will demonstrate you are committed for the long haul.
“The passing of my mother from breast cancer when I was 15 years old opened my eyes to a new perspective on life. I became intensely interested in scientific research with aspirations to better understand and possibly find a cure for cancer.”

“I have always wanted to be a doctor because I love people and want to help them.”

“When I received my first microscope set at the age of eight, I could not wait to swab the inside of my cheek and smear my cells on a slide.”
Activity-2 min

How would you characterize the effects of your participation in a program or an organization?
2) Sell your unique strengths, leadership qualities, experience, and academic preparation for the position or experience

“Since joining the _____ program, I have gained knowledge on techniques such as DNA Isolations, DNA Restriction Digestions, DNA Transformation, micropipette, Gel Electrophoresis and learned how to run polymerase chain reaction (PCR). I am familiar with High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC) and Capillary Electrophoresis (CE).

Additionally, I am currently enrolled in a Scientific Communications course, which enhances my written and verbal scientific communication skills.”
“Since joining the _____ program, I have **mastered hands-on research** techniques such as DNA Isolations, DNA Restriction Digestions, DNA Transformation, micropipetting, Gel Electrophoresis, polymerase chain reaction (PCR), High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC). I have **gained experience running and analyzing** Capillary Electrophoresis (CE) data. I am **skilled** at cell culturing, media preparation and protein chemistry. Additionally, I am currently enrolled in a Scientific Communications course, which enhances my written and verbal scientific communication skills.”
Special Conditions or Circumstances

- Be open about obstacles encountered & overcome (illness, tragedy, 35 hr/week job, etc.)

- Inconsistencies in grades or test scores? Explain in brief, non-apologetic, and non-defensive manner

- Turn bad experiences into a learning experiences
3) How will this Experience Contribute to the Success of your Career

SHOW THAT YOU HAVE DONE YOUR HOMEWORK!

- Benefits of program academically and professionally
- What’s next after completing the program.... the ultimate goal!
- Why this program and why now? Research the program & explain its appeal.
4) Refer to specific aspects of the program that match your interests

   Give them credit

   “Time magazine reports that ..... is the number #1 in the nation for preparing molecular biologists. I will be an asset to your summer program and a motivation to other participants if given an opportunity to participate in the summer program.”
It is a Process!

The University Writing Center can Help!