



Personal Statements

ASK YOURSELF

What are my career goals?

What personal achievements, events, or connections have shaped me or influenced those goals?

When did I become interested in this field and what have I learned about it and about myself?

What personal characteristics (i.e., integrity, compassion, and /or persistence) do I possess that demonstrate the potential for success in my chosen field or profession?

WRITE WELL

Answer the Questions

Don't be tempted to use the same statement for all applications. Carefully read the specific question being asked, and tailor your statement to it.

Remember Your Audience

The admissions committee is made up of faculty who are professional in their fields. Understand terminology and topics common to those fields so your essay content is meaningful.

Set the Stage

Your opening paragraph sets the framework for the rest of the statement.

Tell a story

Explain where you are coming from, what you want to get out of the program you're applying to, and where you hope your knowledge will take you in your career.

Provide Evidence

Demonstrate your strengths through specific experiences and achievements. Clearly outline an area of study in which you want to specialize.

Form Conclusions

Explain the value and meaning of your experience, such as what you learned about yourself, your field, and your future goals.

Do Some Research

Find out what sets each program apart from other universities, and why you want to be a member of that particular community.

GIVE YOURSELF TIME

Keep a journal with you so you can write when you're inspired, not simply when you've set aside time for writing.

Contact Lynn Insley (lynn.insley@stevens.edu) to make an appointment to review your resume. Allow for several revisions before essay is finalized. Writing personal statements is a process of discovery.