

Writing 109ST Assignment #1

Personal Statement

Objective

A personal statement serves two purposes: 1) it supports your application to a professional school and/or degree program; and, 2) it reifies your commitment to a personal life decision. Like the resume and CV, no one will admit you to a program based solely upon your personal statement; it merely provides another tool for interviewers to decide whether to interview you and/or take your application to the next level. It should help clarify what is in your application, including personal motivations and rationale for applying, and include details about you that are not available in the rest of your application packet.

This assignment will task you with writing a personal statement for use in making the next move beyond your four-year degree at UCSB. This could mean applying to a graduate program, medical/dental/nursing school, or law school, or it could mean applying to an occupational-professional track in industry. In all cases, writing a personal statement will help you think more clearly and specifically about your life plans.

Tasks

Write a one- or two-page (single-spaced) personal statement. Be certain your statement includes the following:

- An introduction that hooks the reader
- Past and previous experience relevant to your application
- A binding theme or over-arching structure to your narrative
- A trajectory for your life's plans
- Details and explanations that give interviewers every reason to say *yes* to your application, and no reason to say *no*.

Assignment Due Date

See the schedule (on course website) for due date.