

# Statement of Purpose

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# Purpose and Objectives

## ■ Purpose

- Prepare students to develop an effective statement of purpose (SOP) to get into REU or graduate school

## ■ Objectives

- Students will learn the fundamental elements of an SOP
- Students will evaluate two examples of SOP
- The students will modify their current SOP to meet the program's need.



# Why a statement of purpose?

- Apply to graduate school
- In this case
  - Apply for Research Experiences for Undergraduates Program
- Describe yourself in your own words
  - They will judge your ability to write



# Personal Statement of Purpose

- Trace the development of your interest in your field
  - Distant -- the genesis or discovery of your interest in education
  - Recent -- what you've done recently to support or fuel that interest
  - Current -- what you're doing now



# Personal Statement of Purpose

- Explain what you've done to prepare for a graduate program or your career
  - Classes
  - Internships
  - Work Experiences
  - Others



# Personal Statement of Purpose

- Explain what you've learned or gained from these experiences
  - Skills
  - Self-Confidence
  - Awareness
  - Abilities



# Personal Statement of Purpose

- Discuss your short term and long term goals
  - Show how graduate studies (or REU) is a step towards a larger goal/ career/ calling



# Personal Statement of Purpose

- Explain what you offer to a particular school or program
  - Why should they accept you?
  - Prove your assertions, rather than merely stating them
    - It is not the same





# How specific?

- Let's see an example

- In groups of 3: Take 10 min and read the document SOP1
- Comment on how specific this SOP is for the particular school this student is applying to.
- Is it effective?



# Personal Statement of Purpose

## ■ Personal Information

- What makes you unique or distinguished?
- Can you connect a significant life event to your experiences or goals?



# Personal Statement of Purpose

- Other issues to consider
  - **Make sure to offer specific evidence to support your claims.**
  - Correct English! No misspelling.
  - Coherence and well planned.



# Another Example

- Read SOP2
  - One of the femprof girls , for grad school
  - What elements does this SOP have?
  - Compare and contrast with the previous one.



# Links

- UC Davis, Graduate School, Advising Services

- [http://advisingservices.ucdavis.edu/advising/grad/handouts/writing\\_the\\_statement\\_of\\_purpose\\_for\\_graduate\\_school.html](http://advisingservices.ucdavis.edu/advising/grad/handouts/writing_the_statement_of_purpose_for_graduate_school.html)



# Now

- Let's review your current statement of purpose
  - Nestor sent a document:
  - [Statement of Purpose REU - Guide.docx](#)
- Let's work towards an impressive SOP



# Working towards an impressive SOP

- Setting goals
  - Area of research
  - Publications in the area
- Looking for opportunities
- Past experiences
  - Poster sessions
  - Societies



# Questions?

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