Statement of Purpose

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Femprof / Mentorgrad / CAHSI workshop
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

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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