WORKSHEET: PERSONAL STATEMENTS

Have you…

☐ Checked the character or word limit – you cannot go over; get as close to your limit as possible?
☐ Checked the prompt - make sure you answer all of the components or questions asked?
☐ Tailored your statement to their mission statement or program emphasis?

Why you want to go in to this field/industry?
Large scale…

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Specific reasons...

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Evidence of the deep reflection of the significance of your experience (how have your experiences influenced you)...

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Evidence of knowledge of the industry...

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

What is your unique perspective?
Large scale: how will you use your unique skill set to make an impact on the field/industry...

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________
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What will you uniquely offer to and within the field (select 2-3)
Unique perspective/background...

______________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________

_______________________________
Skill/Ability/Strengths/Personality...

______________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________
Interests...

______________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________
Values...

______________________________________________________________

Why this program, school, faculty?

______________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________
Theme weaving/Conclusion?
What are the two most important things you want the reader to remember about you after reading:

______________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________

Personal Statement Writing Tips:
► Be sure you haven’t restated experiences that you’ve highlighted in other areas of your application.
► Resist the urge to use big words just for the sake of using them!
► Do you have clear points? Is the reader left making assumptions or guessing what you are trying to say?
► Is your personal statement too focused on the story, leaving out your insights that describe your motivation to pursue your field of study and passion for the field?
► Have you spent too much time focusing on others and not enough time on your own personal reflections?
► Have you demonstrated your knowledge about the field (knowledge of techniques, procedures, terminology, etc. to illustrate you depth of knowledge about the field)?
► Do you have a theme? Is it too much theme?
► Do you have a definite, fluid conclusion that ties the personal insights together with the theme or story?