



# How To Write Your Graduate School Personal Statement

**1**

## Start Strong

- The opening paragraph is generally the most important
- Use a hook to grab the reader's attention
- Set the framework for the rest of the statement

**2**

## Tell What You Know

- Be specific and concise
- Establish your academic background
- Assure the graduate admissions committee that you have matured during, or since, your undergraduate years
- Show how your intellectual and professional interests have developed and progressed towards your professional development

**3**

## Describe Your Professional Goals

- Describe your career aspirations
- Tell a story – demonstrate your goals through experiences and examples
- Assure the graduate admissions committee that you are an applicant with a purpose
- Be specific about what you intend to do with your degree

**4**

## Describe Your Intentions For Grad School

- Do your research – relate your academic and professional goals to the program
- Describe why you are applying for this program
- Show how their graduate program aligns with your goals and professional development

**5**

## Solidify Your Place in Their Program

- One to two sentences summing up your background and goals
- Reaffirm your confidence and preparation for their program
- Solidify their decision that you are the right person for their program