

Outline for a Personal Statement

- I. First Paragraph
 - a. Opens with a paragraph that tells who you are and your goals
 - i. “My name is Frederick Grieve. I am going to graduate from Western Kentucky University in the Spring 1985 semester. I am interested in pursuing a doctoral degree in clinical psychology.”
- II. Next two to three paragraphs
 - a. Describe the educational experiences you have had that have prepared you for graduate study
 - i. Research experience
 1. Describe your duties if you were a research assistant
 2. Describe the study if you did an honor’s thesis or other study
 - ii. Applied experience
 1. Describe what you did for PSY 390
 2. Describe other volunteer experience
 - iii. Classes
 1. Describe experiences in classes that prepared you for graduate work
- III. One paragraph that focuses on the program to which you are applying
 - a. Discuss what you think the strengths of the program are and focus on how you believe the program will help you meet your goals
- IV. One paragraph that focuses on your fit with the program
 - a. What are your professional (clinical and research) interests and how do these align with what the program has to offer
 - b. In this paragraph, you should mention at least one faculty member with whom you would like to work
 - i. Describe how the faculty member’s research/clinical interests align with yours
- V. Concluding paragraph
 - a. Give a good conclusion that leaves the program with a good impression of you.