

Statement of Purpose V2 (2-3 pages; SPELL CHECK)**A) Intro Paragraph: Your motivation.**

Who are you – what is your major?

Why are you applying to graduate school? Don't be too specific about the exact thing you want to do, try to be broad.

What excites you about research? What have your research projects taught you?

B) Research Paragraphs: Each paragraph should emphasis ONE skill that is your strength.

e.g. Sentence 1: I am: a leader, able to conduct independent research, a strong communicator. Then you point to an example that proves this point (e.g. I got involved in research early by taking initiative ...)

(DON'T USE "WE")

How did you get involved in research? Did you take initiative?

What was the project? Why does the topic matter? Why is it important to the field?

What did *you* do? Did you *lead* a component of the analysis?

What challenges did you face and how did you overcome them?

What was the outcome/product? (code on GitHub, presentation, report, etc)

What skills did you develop (coding? data analysis? Confidence?).

What interests did this project inspire? What were you excited about?

Add additional paragraphs to describe any other research experiences following the same format. Aim for one paragraph per project, or one paragraph per skill set. You can include a figure.

Describe how you have communicated your research outcomes to others – presentations, posters, meetings with collaborators? Will you present ongoing work at APS or AAS?

*****The following two parts (C and D) can be separated out as a personal statement.**

C) "Challenges" Paragraphs (May not be applicable, useful if GPA is low)

Describe challenges you have had to overcome

- High school to Undergrad transition, Transfer Student, Medical or other reasons that classes were tough.
- Financial: Did you have to work while taking classes? Have you worked hard to get scholarships to pay for your education?
- Did you have to teach yourself something? Coding/Math etc.

Describe your growth through these challenges.

- How did they make you a stronger researcher? What skills might you have gained?
- Did it give you a different perspective/motivation to pursue your intended career path?
- State that you have *overcome* the challenges and can handle the challenges of grad school. Perseverance.

D) Outreach/Leadership/Activities Paragraphs

Outreach: What was your inspiration to do this work? How does it relate to your career goals?

Stress your skills: leadership, organization/multi-tasking, creativity, passion,

teaching/educating. You know how to work hard.

How are you currently interacting with the department at UA? E.g. colloquia or talks? Group meetings? Will you do so as a grad student at school X ?

E) Conclusion. Or University Specific Paragraph

If you are going to mention a University, DO NOT BE generic. Mention specific folk that do what you are interested in – make sure they are active researchers (check publications or email their students). Be specific about their research and connection to your interests. Fair to state that you are interested in a broad range of topics. Be clear that you **want** to go to this school.

***End with linking back to goals of why you want to go to grad school from first paragraph. _
You know what you are in for, you want to do grad level research and you want to do this at school X.