**PERSONAL STATEMENT GUIDELINES**

Things to Remember

1. **What is the PURPOSE of this essay?**
2. To introduce yourself to the committee
3. To share relevant experience
4. To let the committee know what you bring to the table: why you are an asset to the program
5. To let the committee know what you would like to gain from their program.
6. **What should I write about?**
7. Pick a personal experience:
   1. Volunteer Experience
   2. “Shadow” Experience
   3. Extracurricular Activities
   4. Unique and Relevant Background
8. Make sure your experience demonstrates your passion for the field
9. Choose a unique experience that highlights your skills:
   1. Organization
   2. Leadership
   3. Working with People
   4. Academic Excellence
   5. Research Experience
10. Brag a Little
    1. Focus on your strengths
    2. If you’ve overcome an obstacle, talk about it.
11. **Be Specific!**
    1. Avoid General Statements
       1. “I’d be a great nurse because I’m good with people.”
       2. “I’ve always wanted to be a vet. I love dogs.”
       3. “The human body is an amazing thing.”
       4. "I’ve always been interested in pharmaceuticals.”
    2. Support Your Claims
    3. SHOW Don’t TELL
12. **Check Everything** (and then go back and re-check it!)
    1. Is the name of the school correct?
    2. Have you answered the question?
    3. Have you filled out the form completely?
    4. Have you used the required format?
13. **Edit Effectively!**
    1. Check you spelling
    2. Go to the Writing Center for feedback
14. **Start Early and Revise, Revise, Revise**

The WSUV Writing Center is located in VLIB 203 and our hours are Mon.-Fri. 9-5. Feel free to e-mail us at [writingcenter@wsu.edu](mailto:writingcenter@wsu.edu) or call us at 360-546-9650.