

Statement of Purpose (SOP) Workshop

October, 2022

Three Questions:

- Why do you want to study in Graduate school?
 - Related to what you want to do after graduate school
- What experience/qualifications do you have in preparation for graduate school?
- Why do you want to study in this particular program?

Guiding Principles for Writing

- Be clear, direct, impactful, and engaging
- Write Short....Get to your Point Quickly
- Write with integrity and without fear
- Organize relentlessly for the clearest sequence of ideas

Avoid the following:

- Any grammatical or usage error
- Passive Voice
- Jargons
- Vague expressions/generalizations
- Personal history without relevance
- Obvious flattery of program and faculty
- Gratuitous name-dropping
- Describing SUA curriculum or concentrations

Process for writing the SOP

- Objective: What do you want to do after graduate school and Why?
- Research:
 - What experience/qualifications do you have in preparation for graduate school?
 - Why do you want to study in this particular program?
- What is your structure for presenting your sequence of ideas?
- Write a DRAFT
- Seek feedback at different stages of the writing process
- Revise and edit, as many times as necessary