

Quick Tips for SoP and PS:

General Reminders:

Be Careful Not to Confuse the SoP with the PS:

SoP highlights

- academic preparation for specific field
- academic preparation and fit for specific program
- knowledge of research areas of particular faculty/department
- future prospects and career plans
- relationship between goals and program

SoP is

- formal in tone - an intellectual narrative
- succinct and specific
- focused on how past helps future - really, future-focused
- focused on the specific school

Do Not	Do
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recycle your SoP from school to school	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cater your SoP to specific strengths - yours and the departments
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• List your CV information	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Highlight what is most relevant to showing your skills and research focus
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mention faculty by name only, without their speciality and title	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clarify their involvement by area - same for the faculty of the program you are applying to
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Treat 'fame' or 'prestige' as reasons why you prefer a specific school	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Refer specifically to the school's research areas that fit with your interests
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assume overly specific knowledge of every acronym	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Define terms or spell them out the first time you use them.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Focus on how hard you worked on your courses and projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Focus on what you learned and what you accomplished in relation to what you now want to achieve

PoS highlights

- individual background
- opportunities or challenges that affected your current trajectory
- experiences that shape the individual - if relevant to create portrait of candidate
- complement SoP

PoS is

- narrative and slightly less formal than SoP
- can have anecdotes to illustrate an aspect of your story
- organized around your main theme - what you want to highlight about yourself

Do Not	Do
Rely in cliches	Use your unique background and experiences to stand out
Begin in the too distant past	Present yourself as the accomplished adult the school is considering
Discuss personal but irrelevant or self-exploitative details	Remember your PS should help complement your SoP and present you as a well-rounded person
Rely only on chronology to structure your statement	Organize your PS around the features you want to highlight
Forget about your audience in judging the relevance of a story or an example	Remember you are building a purposeful portrait with every piece of personal information you provide
Prioritize others - family, teachers, friends in your PS	Focus on your own development, successes, struggles.