The Statement of Purpose is a narrative that discusses an applicant’s past education, experiences, and current professional career objectives. The statement of purpose should describe an applicant’s:

* Motivating influences for interest in the application degree (public health, biostatistics, epidemiology)
* Specific area(s) of research/professional experiences related to the application degree. Although an applicant is not required to have previous public health experience, it will further enhance an application
* Career goals and objectives, including how the applicant plans to contribute to public health
* Deficiencies in past academic or professional performance, if applicable
* Reasons for interest in attending the University of Miami

Applicants are encouraged to compose the statement in a text-only word processor, such as Notepad or TextEdit, review the statement for errors, and then cut and paste the final version into the text box of the SOPHAS application. The limit is 1,500 words.

Disconnect between problem and reality

Systematic thinking, critical thinking

Undocumented population problems during the pandemic

**General information problems because of language barrier & disconnect/fear of government barriers**

**Problems with misinformation**

- scared that it won’t be covered

- people have no other references to believe in

- information gets passed down between family members

- people could seriously get hurt

**problems with official policies that confused people/didn’t make sense/led to bad outcomes**

**-** content spread in social media platforms should be more regulated

- official statements should be given out through all platforms in any language

Coming to the united states was not easy

* No insurance
* no work without social
* no driver’s license
* live with fear to be taken by ICE

pharmacy experience

* not everyone has insurance
* took my time to look for insurance cards
* long lines, short staffed

doing everything myself

* applying to FAFSA to find out I don’t qualify
* looking for a cosigner to have the opportunity to go to college
* apply for college
* take SAT

DACA

* ability to work
* drivers’ license
* go to college

public health

* want to help people that don’t have someone looking out for them
  + such as facebook/whatsapp misinformation
  + incorrect covid-19 treatment
  + vaccine hoax
* provide better communication not only the Hispanic population but every community
* wish it was less about numbers and more about patient care
* healthcare workers deserve respect

PANDEMIC

* Motivating influences for interest in the application degree (public health, biostatistics, epidemiology)
  + Being an undocumented immigrant that had to face these problems firsthand
    - ***Is there a specific memory or instance of this happening? If so give me some details in a sub bullet points***

Fear of the government

* My dad not wanting my mom to get a job in fear of ICE
* Mom not picking me up from the airport when I visit in fear of being taken away.
* Virginia has lots of driving checkpoints that have deported family friends from not having license or having people in the car with no papers = have to be the best driver to ensure we don’t get stopped by cops
* Mom not being able to volunteer at school field trips because of drivers license
* My mom is my motivation, and I would not know what to do if she were to be taken away from this country. This is why I want to have a voice so I can protect people like my mom. Who if she were to be deported back to el Salvador I would not even be able to visit her.
* Without her I would not be where I am today
  + She would walk/ take the bus to my school whenever I got sick and needed to leave school early
  + Hence why I would never tell my teachers I felt sick so I wouldn’t have to put my mom through that.
  + Or try sports bc it meant that I might get hurt and my mom would have to sacrifice her safety bc my dad has to always work to provide for our family

My mom is the reason I wanted to pursue medicine so I can ensure I can take care of her and my family. Shes the glue that keeps my family together and I know that there are many people that live in fear as I did and still do.

My mom is the reason I want there to be a way to provide insurance to even undocumented immigrants. She like many, live in fear that they can’t go check themselves out regularly without fearing the bill that comes with it. That the only way they could get covered is by private insurance that take half of your income.

* + - not knowing there are organizations out there that can help
* Specific area(s) of research/professional experiences related to the application degree. (I love you babe)
  + Working at a pharmacy and experiencing little problems the Spanish population phase
    - ex. Not knowing basic things like communicating with insurances
    - corporates care more about numbers and less about customer care
  + guiding my parents through the pandemic ***the specifics you bring to this should all be related to the theme of being an isolated community / differences.*** 
    - teaching them safe practices; wear masks, practice social distancing – ***why did you have to teach them this?*** 
      * My dad being an essential worker had to take greater precautions due to my grandma
      * At the beginning of the pandemic when no one knew how serious it was to quarantine
    - telling them not to pay attention to the “cures” and “prevention” to avoid coronavirus – ***why were they paying attention to it in the first place?***
      * They aren’t tech savvy to do the research
      * Most of the information they get is from viral posts being shown around facebook and news on tv
    - having to explain the importance of the vaccine- ***why didn’t they think it was “important” already?***
      * Negative stigma being shared about how it gets you sick and negative side effects
      * Dad not wanting to take off from work = less hours
      * Mom being feared of turned away bc no ID
* Career goals and objectives, including how the applicant plans to contribute to public health
  + Want to provide correct information to the people in my community that don’t have anyone looking out for them
* Deficiencies in past academic or professional performance, if applicable
  + Having to work 40 hours a week to keep myself in school.
  + Being the first of my family to graduate college
* Reasons for interest in attending the University of Miami
  + Seems like a school that could push me further where I want to be in life
  + Can provide me the tools I need to succeed and help immigrants
  + Focuses on not only local problems but internationally as well
  + ***Need to be hyper specific- to the extent that it demonstrates you have researched the program***

***Questions to answer:***

* ***What is your family/community history with vaccines? (e.g. what are vaccination programs like in ES? Etc.)***
  + Vaccination programs in ES are robust, stand out as very non 3rd world- parents all received routine schedule of jabs as did you (tetanus scar that is clear sign of…)
  + Begs the question – why was there hesitancy now? In ES they aren’t isolated – public health is for them
  + Academic research mirrors personal observation – vaccine uptake in ES is generally very high with jabs that are “known” and have history but a newer vaccine can cause hesitance (rotavirus vaccine in mid 2000s) and relies on access to good info on use
  + ***Add to this as needed***
* ***Want to develop theme around “public health isn’t for the whole public”***
  + ***Find some data about disparate impacts of covid for undocumented populations***
  + ***A lot of what you already have written above is already developing this theme, but add to it!***
  + ***I love you very much xoxo***
    - ***I’m proud of u and this is gonna be amazing when we’re done ily***

All of us are told from a young age on never to let a label define who we are; it is wise advice in many cases, but naïve in mine.

All of us are told from a young age on never to let a label define who we are; it is well-intended and often wise advice, but it is not for me. On November 27th, 2004, my mother strapped me to an innertube and together we crossed the Rio Grande River, and from the moment my seven-year-old toes touched American soil forward, my life has been defined by a single label: “undocumented.” I shouldn’t say a single label because, of course, different words have been used over time, “alien” … “illegal”.

Being told by my parents to not get in trouble that might

Growing up in a foreign country

Most of my life I have spent trying to hide that part of me to appeal to my peers and blend in. however, it is something I have recently learned to embrace.

and seem normal to blend in like everyone. Knowing that if I do anything out of the ordinary to seem notice might spark questions about how I got here.

Living in constant fear that one day I might not be able to see my parents

Although I am able to stay in the US as a temporary resident, that fear is always in the back of my thoughts.

I want to go home

I cant concentrate

I just want to be done with this but I keep having to wait

This is why I don’t rely on everyone

This is why I should not expect people to help me because then something is going on with them and then I wait on them bc I am trying to be nice and they are doing me the favor of helping

But I can keep doing that

I should never ask for help

I need to suck it up and do shit myself bc at the end I only have myself and only I can achieve what I desire

I need to fucking go home and make myself just type and type until I finish

I need to value myself and put myself first bc I have no other option

If I don’t go to school and have options under my belt I will fail

I have to push push push