<div align="center">

Title
Your Name

</div>

Introduction (1 Paragraph)

- Sentence 1: Broad topic of interest to Cognitive Science or Information Sciences
    - Exp: *"With climate change on the rise, uncertainty communication is becoming increasingly more important, particularly for extreme weather events."*
    - Exp: *"In modern society, we commonly use visualizations of data to make important life decisions."*
    - Exp: *"Understanding human cognition is critical when developing tools and applications that may improve the quality of life for people around the world."*
- Sentence 2-4: Two - three examples from research studies (with citations) that support/inform/elaborate the first sentence.
- Sentence 5: However statement
    - Exp: *"However, researchers have not yet tested how people use visualizations when they are under stress or in time-constrained situations."*
    - Exp: *"While many researchers have examined uncertainty visualization, less work has focused on ..."*
- Sentence 6: I'm interested in working with Dr. X to…
    - fill in this research gab
    - expand on this area of research
    - advance this research
    - apply this research to a new domain
    - integrate these different fields
- Sentence 7: Why I am specifically interested in this topic. (Feel free to include personal information about why this research topic is of interest to you, which may make you uniquely qualified to conduct such work.)

Background (2-5 paragraphs)

<u>Educational</u>: 1 to 2 paragraphs (Detail critical educational experiences, including classes, senior thesis, or projects. Try to stay on message and only include examples that are related to your intro.

- Transition sentence
    - Exp: *"While my research goals are ambitious, my educational background and research experiences have prepared me for a rigors Ph.D. program."* (You can include the specific program you are applying to if you want. Be sure to change the details if you are sending multiple applications.)
- Educational experiences: Detail what you did and what you learned
- Conclude with a summary of what you learned from all of this and if you have received any academic awards.

<u>Research</u>: 1 to 4 paragraphs (Detail research experiences, including lab work, research studies, literature reviews, posters, presentations, publications, or relevant industry experiences.)

- Transition sentence
    - Exp: *"In addition to my educational training, my research experiences have helped me develop skills in A, B, and C."* (If you use this format you can have one paragraph per skill.)

- o Exp: *"While completing my undergraduate course work, I began volunteering in Dr. Z's lab."* (This is the chronological approach. If you use this approach, you should consider also using it in the educational paragraphs for consistency.)
- Detail all the relevant research that you've done which pertains to your research interest as stated in the intro paragraph.
- Conclude with a brief summary of your specific skills and if you have received any awards for this work.

Future Research Objective or Goals (1-2 paragraphs)
This is where you lay out the research that you are excited to do in the future.
- Opening statement that unifies your educational background, research experiences, and interests. It can be helpful to repeat part of the 'however statement' from the Intro.
  - o Exp: "*In my course work and in Dr. Z's lab I found that researchers have not yet tested how people use visualizations when they are under stress or in time-constrained situations."*
- Detail what you would like to study.
- Explain why this work fits with the professor's current research. It is fine to cite specific papers from the professor.
- Detail the skills you bring to the professor's lab and how you are excited to become a part of the team.
- Detail how a Ph.D. from the department you are applying to will help you achieve your long-term goals
- End with a summary of the strongest parts of your application

References
Include references in APA format. Applications like Endnote or Zotero can help citation management.