

## Gathering Ideas for Your Personal Statement

1. What attracts you to this chosen field? What do you expect to do?
2. When did you become *certain* that this is what you wanted to do? What solidified it?
3. What makes you unique from other applicants?
4. What are the 2 or 3 academic accomplishments that have most prepared you?
5. What non-academic experiences have contributed to your preparation for graduate studies in this field?
6. What are your intellectual influences?
7. What's the most important thing an admissions committee should know about you?
8. Are there any gaps or discrepancies in your academic record that you should explain?