

## **SAMPLE 1: PERSONAL STATEMENT (500 words max)**

My Name here

Carol E. Macpherson Scholarship Personal Statement

Date here

Dear Scholarship Selection Committee:

I have loved traveling and reading about other cultures since I was a little girl. Sitting on the floor of our family kitchen and reading about people who lived all over the globe as well as living for a year in Argentina, instilled in me a respect for diversity and a burning desire to be an advocate for those underserved on this planet. This goal has been my reason for past formal and informal studies, and a degree in xyz will provide me the final tools I will need to meet the challenges I will face, and to be the strong advocate I would like to be. The Carol E. Macpherson Scholarship would help me greatly as I work toward my goal. Below please find my personal statement using the sections you have requested.

### **Education and Professional Goals**

My plan is to complete my undergraduate degree in xyz, and pursue a career as an advocate for clean and healthy environments while living in Africa or South America. I am currently conducting research on women, water, health and law to add to the existing information about the role of women in preserving and protecting freshwater resources. In the past ten years, I completed an internship in Ethiopia and in Uganda, learned about the United Nations, and honed my organizational, advocacy and cultural skills. I needed to take a break from college while my children were young, but am now re-energized to return to school to complete the degree, and gain the knowledge and skills I need to pursue my dream.

### **Responsibilities/Characteristics**

Following my internship, I married, had a child and lived for one year in Uganda. Now, I am a single mother of three wonderful children (ages 8, 6, and 5). I love my children, and am glad to be a role model for them of a woman who continues to her education and follows her dreams.

### **Relevant Experience**

During my break from college, I became more involved in my community by mentoring and volunteering at organizations such as Big Brothers & Big Sisters, Volunteers of America, The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), Women Leaders for a Better Tomorrow, and at a homeless shelters and soup kitchen. In addition, I worked at xyz for three years, where my passion for this field continued to grow.

### **Financial Need**

As a single parent with inconsistent child support, the Carol E. Macpherson scholarship would be of great assistance in supporting my goal to finish my degree.

I work at abc, 25 hours a week, and have chosen to not work full-time to avoid day care costs and to be there to provide guidance for my children after school.

The Carol E. Macpherson Scholarship provides a chance for people who are struggling to return to school, to become the exception and succeed. I hope to become one of those special people and it is with great honor and appreciation that I submit this application for your consideration.

Sincerely,

My Signature

My Name

My Address

Phone

E-mail

## **SAMPLE 2: PERSONAL STATEMENT (500 words max)**

My Name here

Carol E. Macpherson Scholarship Personal Statement

Date here

Dear Scholarship Selection Committee:

### **Relevant Experience**

Growing up in rural Pennsylvania in a town with a population of less than 300, the only people I knew who had been to college were my teachers. Many of the older girls got pregnant and dropped out of school by the 10<sup>th</sup> grade. There were no other role models in terms of academic aspirations or career options. Despite this fact, for as long as I can remember, I dreamed of going to college. I developed a fascination with Anthropology from reading the National Geographic magazines my grandmother had, and started learning about Anthropology programs. I knew my parents could not afford to help me with college and we knew nothing about financial aid. Still, I felt in my heart that if I worked hard, got good grades and stayed focused, I would find a way to make my dream a reality.

By 10<sup>th</sup> grade I had the highest GPA in my class, had won several statewide academic competitions and a teacher offered to assist me in applying to colleges and to write my recommendation letters. I sent away for catalogues, but by the end of that summer I was in love and pregnant. Then my entire world began to unravel. Though my older ex-husband had a full time job, he also had a budding drinking problem. I would rather not share the traumatic details of our marriage, it is enough to say that after 5 years of abuse I escaped with my life and my three children.

### **Responsibilities/Characteristics**

Since that time, I have been waging custody battles and supporting our children completely on my own, as their father is unable to pay consistent child support. I also completed my GED, attended two terms of community college and have been accepted into the University of Minnesota's Anthropology program. Though I have taken a winding path, I am finally where I always wanted to be - with the addition of three children I love and would not trade the world for.

### **Education and Professional Goals**

My career plans are to complete a BA in Anthropology and then continue on toward a Ph.D. I have planned it so that by the time I need to conduct field research my girls will be old enough to live with my parents, who have offered to assist with childcare for extended periods. My area of specialization is the study of women healers through the ages, from witchcraft and feminine shamanism to contemporary folk medicine. It is my hope that through future research, my findings may one day lead to breakthroughs in modern medical practices and an increased respect for a more feminine and holistic view of healing in today's world. On a more personal level I want to provide the role model for my girls I never had.

**Financial Need**

As a single mother, who can only work a maximum of 20 hours/week while in college, the assistance this scholarship offers would be invaluable as I work toward making my dreams a reality.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

My Signature

My Name

My Address

Phone

E-mail