



4th CWU Grad CAMP Meeting: Statement review

Outline for today:

- Check-in about GRE, [Today's Practice Question](#)
- Review a solid draft for your professional application statement.
- Solidify what you're applying for

Recording notification

This webinar will be recorded and will be shared via the CWU website.

By continuing to the meeting you are consenting to be recorded.

Graduates Creating Applications for More Professional Experiences (Grad-CAMP) is offered by the [Central Office of Undergraduate Research](#) and [CWU Math Honors Program](#).

Resources from the Grad-CAMP will be available here, <https://www.cwu.edu/math/professional-opportunities>.

WHAT MAKES A GOOD APPLICATION STATEMENT?

You are writing to people who will be your mentors and colleagues.

- Tell an interesting story
- Do say things about particular instances when something exciting happened – specific example.
- Talk about the things you have in common.
ie: you want to do the work that they want to do... *MATH*
- Avoid phrases that are going to create bias
... *“I always hated math until...”*
- Watch qualifiers ... *“A professor helped guide the research”* vs *“I did research in Dr. Brandy’s lab on ...”*
- Use industry preferred format (if possible)... *LaTeX*

HOW TO GIVE FEEDBACK...

Draw a straight line (_____) under words or images that strike you as effective. These words would include strong verbs, specific details, memorable phrases, and striking images.

Draw a wavy line (~~~~~) under words or images that are weak or unconvincing. Put these lines under words the writer repeats too often, ideas that seem vague, flat, or unnecessary.

Put brackets [] around sentences or groups of sentences that you think should be combined.

Put parentheses () around sentences that are awkward or don't make sense

GUIDELINES FOR PEER EDITING WHEN YOU ARE THE WRITER

- Explain the purpose and audience
- Take advantage of the opportunity
- Ask when you don't understand
- Don't take it personally. Remind yourself that the comments are about your writing, not about you.
- Feel free to decline the advice

Feel free to ask your editor for clarification if you find the person's comments too vague or otherwise unclear.

If your peer editor says what you've written "looks fine" **ask about specific parts of your draft** ("Did you think the purpose was clearly stated in my introduction?").

GUIDELINES FOR PEER EDITING WHEN YOU ARE THE READER

- Always read through a piece twice
- Take the role of the intended reader (reading for content not for errors). Leave the copyediting to the writer.
- Avoid "fixing" the problem
- Be honest but constructive.
- Be specific

It can be hard to say what you really think about a piece of writing. **It's often tempting to say "Looks fine to me," but your writer will learn nothing from the exercise.**

A good approach is to start by telling the writer what you like and then mention what doesn't work.

TWO STEPS WHEN PEER EDITING

1. Compliment the author.
What are a few things that you liked about the author's writing?

2. Make specific suggestions regarding the author's:

- Word choice
- Use of details
- Organization
- Sentence length
- Topic



CREATED USING
BwToon

FEEDBACK PROCESS

12 minutes -

- Read through once for overall paper.
- Read through again to comment

1 minute - Identify and make final comment on Statement Format:

- Hook
- Background
- Five year plan

1 minute - Final compliment

GROUP FEEDBACK

Asking the group to provide feedback on the statements.

- 4 minutes on overall comments/ impressions
- 1 minute for final compliment

LOOKING FOR GRAD SCHOOLS...HOW TO KEEP THE LIST

Make a list of at least 10+ programs: a few reach, a few average, and a few for certain.

- Grad School
- Website
- Application website
- Notes:
 - Contacts/personal connections to program
 - Why you like it
- DEADLINES - applying and money

When you decide to apply, keep track of what you need to apply:

- Due dates
- Fees
- Application requirements
 - Statement requirements
 - Transcripts
 - GREs
- Letters:
 - How many letters?
 - Who is doing each the letters for you

SELECTING A SCHOOL....

- Talk to faculty
- Visit if you can and talk to grad students at the schools!
- Talk to the students who have been there and have advice for the whole program... what worked and didn't?
- Talk to faculty

WHERE DID OUR FACULTY GO?

- Oregon State University: Boersma, Loke, Lewis
- Wisconsin (Madison): Montgomery, Bisgard, Temple
- University of California, Davis: Wieggers
- University of Massachusetts, Amherst: Black
- Dartmouth College: Klyve
- University of Texas at Austin: Linhart
- Washington State University: Klosterman
- University of Northern Colorado: Hancock

WHO SHOULD WRITE YOUR LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION?

A faculty member who can address your intellectual merit (e.g., he or she is familiar with your coursework and/or research)

A faculty member who's familiar with your activities that fall into the broader impacts category (e.g., service to your department, exemplary teaching, outreach to the community)

HOW TO ASK FOR A LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION...

Timeline...

- ❑ At least 1 month prior ask if they'll write a letter
 - ❑ Give deadlines for letters
 - ❑ Provide resume and other application materials
 - ❑ Provide list of where and how to submit letters
- ❑ 1 week prior to deadline remind them
- ❑ 2 days prior to deadline remind them again
- ❑ Day of deadline - Be persistent, it's not personal.
- ❑ After letter(s) are sent - send thank you!



Goal before September

- Email Dr. Brandy your application lists (with deadlines)
 - IDEA: Make a spreadsheet to track when each component is submitted
- Email who you'll be using for letter writers.
- Create a fall timeline for your final application process