

# Personal Statement

## Journalism Student

### Education and Career Goals\*

Write a brief statement outlining your education and career goals; if undecided, state what you hope to gain from the college experience.

My plans are obtaining my journalism degree at San Diego State University and then I will pursue my Master's degree at UCLA in communication studies. After I finish my bachelors, I want to work with the biggest newspaper in the nation, such as, L.A times, New York Times, Washington Post, and La Opinion, which is the first Spanish newspaper in the country. I want to be the best journalist in the country. I want to be a successful journalist and a credible writer but I also want to help millions of people with my words that I publish.

### Extracurricular Activities\*

List activities you are involved with both on and off campus; for example, clubs, organizations, volunteer service, and sports activities. If applicable, describe your employment experience and how many hours you work per week. Do your activities relate to your education or career objective?

On campus, I am the ICC representative for the Spanish Club; I also help to plan and coordinate events. Every month the Spanish club shows a movie on campus and I help to organize movie night and another activities. I am also a member of the Gay Straight Alliance Club and I help them with the events at MiraCosta College. Off campus, I work as a volunteer helping the community leader, Mark Day, at the Interfaith Center for Worker Justice in San Diego. I help to translate Spanish to English for the conferences about the immigrant rights and legalization process.

In addition, I write for a Spanish newspaper called La Prensa San Diego as a freelance reporter. This position's responsibilities involve investigation of news and events, collecting information, and finally writing articles. I am so grateful to work as a Reporter in a Spanish newspaper because I had the pleasure to work with the undocumented immigrants and community leaders in San Diego County. I have been working with the Spanish media for almost three years and one story that changed my life was last spring. I wrote an article for the newspaper called "Mujeres en la lucha" which means fighting women. The article was about a group of women that lost their husbands due to the deportation process. The women continue fighting for their kids and created a tamales corporation to make an income to survive. They started selling the tamales at bars and restaurants. I published an article about their life and the functions of the tamales corporation. One district office intern, Vincent Pham who is an employee at the office of Congressman Scott Peters, contacted the editor of La Prensa San Diego because they want to use federal money to help the women. I was informed that they donated money to the tamales corporation after they read my article. With this article, not only I did I have the pleasure of writing an amazing story about a group of women, this story also changed my life in many ways because I understand no matter what you do, you have to believe in yourself and your dream. I felt this day, I contributed to those women.

**Other Information about yourself\***

Please provide information you would like to share about yourself including accomplishments you are proud of, hardships or challenges you overcame in your life, scholarships and/or honors you received. Most important, state your financial need and how a scholarship will help you achieve your education goal.

I was born and raised in Bucaramanga Colombia. I came to this country a couple years ago with two pieces of luggage and many dreams. One of my dreams was to be able to write in a country which has freedom of speech. Unfortunately, in the last five years fifty-seven journalists died doing their profession in Colombia. I left my home and family members because I still believed that I can be a good journalist. I want to continue writing for newspapers and not have fear when my articles are published. English is my second language and it has been hard adapting to the new vocabulary. However, every semester I take extra tutor classes to ensure I will pass the course. I will make sure that the professor knows me and I do not fall behind with homework and exams. My current GPA is 3.87 and I feel proud to be on the President's list where I am among 8% of students with the best grades at MiraCosta College.

If I receive this scholarship, it will change my life. I will be able to concentrate more in school and buy school supplies that I need in this semester. I don't have money to buy all my books, photocopies, and materials that professors ask around the semester. However, every semester, I use the books from the library but always it's difficult for me to stay in the school for many hours. I pay my rent because the financial aid and my freelance job. My parents live in Colombia and I don't get any support from them. I am full time student and I can only work part-time. I am alone and I need the help. I have a lot of school expenses in my classes and every semester I struggle to pay for classes supplies. Even if I don't have money, my grades are very important to me. College is the reason what motivates me to achieve my dreams.