

## Personal Statement Essays Teaching and Spanish Majors

### 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.

Education is the key that will open a door to a world of many opportunities for me. I know that free education is a gift because in Guatemala education has a very high price. I also know that getting an education will open doors to wider horizons. My goal is to pass all my English classes, which will help me improve my writing. By learning and perfecting my English, I can help tutor students that are having difficulties speaking English.

I would like to major in Spanish and receive my Associates Degree from MiraCosta College. I would then like to transfer to Cal State San Marcos and graduate with a Bachelor's of Arts in Spanish. My ultimate goal is to receive my teaching credential and become a Spanish teacher. By becoming a teacher, I know I will be able to impact the lives of many aspiring kids with bright futures ahead of them, just as I aspire for a future now.

### 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?

Although getting good grades and learning English are both very important to me, they are not the only main focuses in my life. One important responsibility that I have is church and arriving on time for service days because I am one of the main singers. When I arrive at church, I make it a personal responsibility to greet everyone and then I go help set up the musical equipment.

Another responsibility that I am lucky to have is being an active member of Friends of EOPS. By participating in the campus organization, I have learned that you have to be very friendly and responsible. I am able to state my opinions, thoughts, and overall build my own point of view. I am a friendly person who likes to have a smile on her face no matter how bad or good the day is.

I also help with the program Operation Hope, which is a homeless shelter for women and single mothers, and I volunteer at Vista High School tutoring the students with their Spanish homework. I like being very involved and responsible in helping my church, college and community.

### 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.

When I came to this country Spanish was my primary language, and English was a foreign language to me. To many peoples surprise, English and Spanish are both second languages to me because my first language is a dialect called Kanjobal, a native language from Guatemala. My first day of high school I could not speak, write, or read any English. At home, I spoke only Spanish with my siblings. This made it very difficult for me to do my schoolwork because I did not have help at home and because my educational background in Guatemala was limited as there I only went to school for four hours a day. To make matters worse in my new world, my high school teachers spoke to me only in English, I could not understand anything. I felt like I was living in three worlds, but I knew that I wanted a successful and prosperous future here in the United States, so I continued to work hard.

Coming to a new country can be hard, but not knowing the language is even harder. However, I believed in myself and I had the strength to overcome this obstacle. I learned to become responsible for my own education, and I started to take matters into my own hands. I did this by practicing my English in class every day and making sure I completed my homework. I soon found myself listening to anyone anywhere, who spoke English. A new curiosity to understand English had woken in me. More importantly, I persevered to learn English by reading books during my free time and breaks. I scheduled free time after school and asked for help

with English and even came to school on Saturday to practice on the computer language software program, Rosetta Stone. My faith and determination helped me learn English fast.

As an immigrant from Guatemala I have faced many obstacles and financial stability has proved to be the greatest one. In my family, only my stepfather works. My stepfather does not really help me with my studies, and not because he doesn't want to but because he already has many responsibilities, thus my mother is the only one who fully supports and believes in me that I will get far with my education. There have been days that I cry because I do not have the money to pay for my classes, but God always helps me meet people that are willing to help me with college. My mother always tries her best to help me, but it is difficult for her to get a job. I know that when I complete my studies I will help those like myself by giving and proving for others just as others gave to me.

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