

# Statement of Purpose

## What is a statement of purpose?

A statement of purpose is your chance to tell a potential employer about yourself in narrative form. It goes beyond what a resume, writing samples, and letters of recommendation are able to accomplish. For the purposes of your profile, your writing sample should be no less than a full paragraph and no more than two paragraphs. The content should be well-thought out, meaningful for you as a person, should contain no spelling or grammatical errors, and should be written with consideration for who the audience is (the hiring manager for an internship position).

## Things to include in your “statement of purpose”:

- Your inspiration or motivation to pursue an internship.
- Your life experiences which will contribute to a career in this field.
- Volunteer work or research or internship experience in this field.
- Specifics about how an internship will enable you to pursue your future career.
- Detailed information about your goals, both short term and long term.

## Things you **SHOULD NOT** include in your “statement of purpose”:

- Redundant information from other application materials, such as your resume. New details, such as recent internship positions or honors, awards or publications can be discussed in the statement of purpose.
- Information which may reflect negatively on your candidacy. Obviously, honesty is required in an application, but it is not necessary to focus on areas which could be perceived adversely.
- Do not use vocabulary that you do not understand.
- Do not invent facts to make yourself appear more suited for a position.