For Department Website:

Social-Personality Psychology Area Doctoral Applicants: Information about what to include in your personal statement

The personal statement provides you with an opportunity to demonstrate that you are a great fit for the program. Additionally, it allows you to showcase your writing skills and to provide context about your past experience. As you prepare your personal statement, read relevant online resources [http://www.clas.wayne.edu/Psychology/Social-Personality-Psychology](http://www.clas.wayne.edu/Psychology/Social-Personality-Psychology) and use the following guidelines:

1) Describe your academic and research interests and how they led you to the field of social-personality psychology and to apply to this particular program to work with specific faculty member(s). Although most successful personal statements tell a compelling story, remember that this is not a story about your life narrative; instead, it is a story about your academic interests and goals.

2) Describe the strengths that you have which will make you a successful doctoral student and social-personality psychologist. Use your personal statement to provide context regarding the accomplishments listed on your CV. Your personal statement offers a unique opportunity to inform the review committee about factors that set you apart from other candidates. Avoid general statements that could apply to almost anyone; instead provide evidence that supports your statements about yourself.

3) Your personal statement can also explain any weaknesses in your record. It provides you with the opportunity to demonstrate that you have successfully overcome barriers and to provide assurance about your readiness and motivation to be a doctoral student.

4) Avoid typos, jargon, bad grammar, and language that sounds unprofessional. Start early and get input from others. Share your personal statement with individuals who are writing your letters of recommendation, ask for advice, and use that advice to improve your statement.