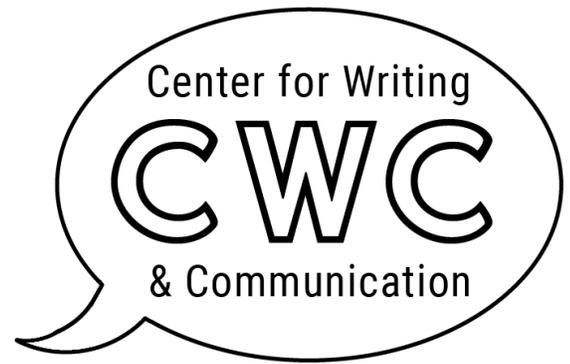


Writing a Graduate School Application



Most Graduate School applications ask you to write a narrative: “On a separate sheet of paper, please write a narrative of approximately 500 words about your professional plans for your further graduate studies and career.”

However, to be able to write this narrative, students have to know the purpose of a narrative and why graduate school admission committees use these narratives.

Purpose of a Narrative:

- For committees to learn more about you in a different way than other pieces of writing can reveal.
- To assess your ability to write academically to a professional audience
- To look for positive ways that you are different from all of the other candidates that are applying for the graduate school as well.
- To find out how well your individual goals correspond with the goals of the program that you are applying to.

Now that you know the purpose of a narrative, it is important to know some questions to ask before you begin to write your narrative. These questions will help you develop a sense of what you want to say in the narrative and could make the narrative easier to write.

Key Questions to Ask:

- What do you want these committees to learn about you that your application and your transcript do not say about you?
- What can you do to show them your ability to write in such a short piece?
- What makes you different from the other candidates? What skills, talents, or strengths do you have that other candidates do not?
- What are your individual goals? What are the goals of the program to which you are applying? How do both of these goals coincide with one another?

Here are some additional tips when writing your narrative:

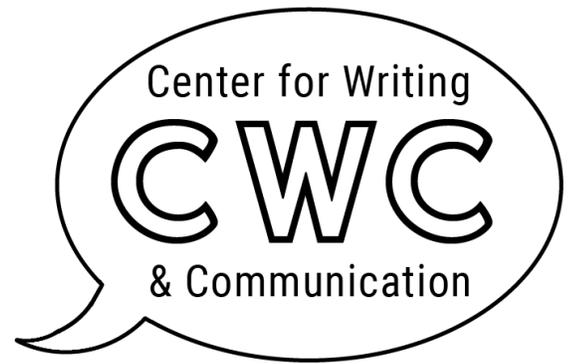
ALWAYS type your narrative. NEVER handwrite it.

You could consider writing the narrative as a letter to the admissions committee. You can even design a personal and unique letter head to stand out.

Be mindful that you are still a “newbie.” The language in your letter or narrative needs to be extremely respectful.

Use language directed toward yourself. In other words, instead of writing about what you can *get*

Writing a Graduate School Application



Here are some additional tips when writing your narrative:

- ALWAYS type your narrative. NEVER handwrite it.
- You could consider writing the narrative as a letter to the admissions committee. You can even design a personal and unique letter head to stand out.
- Be mindful that you are still a “newbie.” The language in your letter or narrative needs to be extremely respectful.
- Use language directed toward yourself. In other words, instead of writing about what you can *get* from the program, write what you can *give* to the program.
- Don’t forget to proofread the narrative many times.

You can always visit the UCA Center for Writing & Communication for a fresh pair of eyes to look over your paper for flow, organization, grammatical errors, and the like.