

Personal Statement

Critical questions to answer:

- Why do you want to go to graduate school (big picture)?
 - o What do you want to do with the rest of your life? (industry or academia or something else)
 - o How will graduate school help you accomplish this goal?
- What do you want to study/research in graduate school?
 - o What specific areas of engineering excite you? Why?
 - o What research (or academic) experience do you have which will help you pursue this topic(s)?
- Why do you want to go to “X” graduate school?
 - o Is there a specific professor(s) who is a leader in your chosen field?
 - o Is the school known for being strong in your chosen field?
 - o Does the school offer something unique? (an interdisciplinary program?)

What not to do:

- Include a poem or quote
- Include a childhood story
- Include a picture
- Discuss financial topics (how you can't go to grad school without financial support)
- Discuss personal issues (marriage, children)