Pre-dental Personal Statement Workshop
Preprofessional Advising Office
University of Utah
Mar 2010
What is Personal Statement?

- Chance to let admission committee know
  Who You Are
  Your PASSION toward dentistry
  Your MOTIVATION
  Your DECISION to become a dentist

- You only have ONE PAGE.
Why Dentistry?
--Dentistry as Career Option

• How did you become interested in studying dentistry? What have you researched about the career?

• How good of an understanding do you have of general dental practice?

• How do you envision yourself utilizing your dental degree?

Source: ADEA Official Guide to Dental Schools 2010
Why Dentistry?

--Demonstrate your interest

• What have you done to demonstrate your interest in dentistry?

• Have you observed or worked in dental offices? What was it like? Do you have any memorable experiences? What have you learned by shadowing or working with dentists?

• What have you done to demonstrate your commitment to helping others?

Source: ADEA Official Guide to Dental Schools 2010
Why Dentistry?
-- Demonstrate your interest (Cont.)

- Do you have any special talents or leadership skills that could be transferable to the practice of dentistry?

- Have you benefited from any special experiences such as participating in research, internships, etc?

Source: ADEA Official Guide to Dental Schools 2010
Why Dentistry?
-- Demonstrate Maturity

- Did you have to work to pay for your education? How has that made you a stronger applicant?

- Have you had to overcome hardships or obstacles to get where you are today? How has this influenced your motivation for advanced education?

Source: ADEA Official Guide to Dental Schools 2010
How to Write Personal Statement

- Describe your emotions, discoveries, significant moments as if you are showing a movie

- Be specific

- Talk about YOURSELF, not about others

- Always connect your ideas to dentistry
Write, Revise and Rewrite

- Ask your advisors, friends, family members and colleagues to read your statement
- Use Writing Center at Marriott Library to check your grammar and stylistics
Questions?

- Contact:
  Preprofessional Advising Office
  Building 44 Room 206
  581-5744 (Open 8:30-5:00)
  John Nilsson (jnilsson@uc.utah.edu)
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