



## IDENTIFY YOUR PROMPT

While some programs may specify the topic or prompt(s) to which you must respond, others may leave the content up to you. In general, the following topics are of interest to graduate programs:

- Your reasons for pursuing a graduate or professional degree
- Areas of study in which you plan to specialize
- Career goals and plans for the future
- Reasons for interest in the specific institution and program
- Preparation and fitness for study in the field -- which may include academics, involvement, and work/internship experience

## OUTLINE YOUR INTRODUCTION

### TELL YOUR STORY!

#### Storytelling:

- Start in the middle of the action
- Place the reader in the setting and make them feel the emotion
- Show your passion!

**Include a sentence connecting your story to your current goals**

### SAMPLE

#### Introductory Sentence:

"I heard the snow crunch ever so slightly behind me; it was then I realized they were following me..."

#### Connector Sentence:

"I can confidently say that caring for and nursing these two kittens back to health was the spark that ignited my passion for veterinary medicine."



## OUTLINE YOUR BODY

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?  
WHY ARE YOU QUALIFIED?

**What experiences have sustained your ambition over time?**

**What will make you successful in graduate school?**

- KNOWLEDGE learned from coursework/experiences
- SKILLS developed through hands-on involvement
- ABILITIES that make you stand out
- Choose 2 - 3 experiences to highlight in your essay

**Why does this particular school/program interest you?**

- Consider things like research opportunities, faculty, cohort size, location, culture, specialties offered, etc.

SAMPLE

**Sustained Ambition:**

"My internship with Dr. Smith at my community humane society sustained my interest in veterinary medicine"

**Knowledge, Skills & Abilities:**

- Observe and identify animal behavior
- Verbal and written communication
- Operation of diagnostic instruments
- Critical thinking; ability to synthesize information
- Balance (school work & other activities)

**Program Interest:**

- Concentration in canine/feline practice
- Small cohort (tight-knit)
- Close to home

## COME TO A CONCLUSION

GOALS & STORY OUTCOME

**How will this program help you reach your goals?**

- Think about short- and long- term personal and professional goals
- Bring your story back in - reiterate how this experience shaped your interest
- Reaffirm your passion for the field

SAMPLE

**Goals:**

- Gain practical & theoretical knowledge
- Participate in clinical work with outstanding faculty
- Long term goal is to work as shelter vet

**Bring in Story:**

"Through my experience with the kittens, I gained an appreciation for the challenges, responsibilities, and rewards that come from working in veterinary medicine."

**Reaffirmation:**

Prepared/excited to become a dedicated member of the veterinary community.

