

DEVELOPING A PERSONAL DATA BASE

1. How did you first become interested in the field of study or school?
2. What educational choices (classes, projects, volunteering) did you make that prepared you for this course of study?
3. List activities, clubs, sports etc. to which you have belonged. Tell what you gained from these experiences.
4. List all awards, publications, and memberships. Give dates, titles, length of time, etc. for all of this material.
5. List all jobs you have held, all employers, dates, positions, and responsibilities for each.
6. List all volunteer work you have ever done and indicate your accomplishments, responsibilities, etc.
7. List any challenges you have faced and overcome especially experiences which gave you strong survival skills, demonstrated your ability to continue your education despite setbacks and difficulties. Describe at least one in detail.
8. List any childhood experience that demonstrated an early ability to learn, or a dedication to academic subjects. you may also indicate here your parent's interest in education, traveling or any other experience you may have had including travel abroad or an acquaintance with another culture.
9. List any languages and cultures you know outside of mainstream culture. Travel to and familiarity with foreign countries demonstrates a wider perspective and a willingness to accept the challenge of living elsewhere. If you have come from another country, talk about the challenge of competing with native speakers and achieving at a high level nonetheless.
10. What experiences make you unique or set you apart from other candidates? These will be featured early in the essay as a means to get the reader's attention. The whole point is to set yourself apart.