

Personal Statement

My love of design started when I joined the yearbook staff as a freshman in high school. I worked as an editor, page designer, section leader, assistant business manager—I did it all. I thoroughly enjoyed each step of the process. I looked forward to going to the yearbook room daily and working with a group of people compiling the memories of our high school. I looked forward to getting the final product the following fall and knowing that I helped make it possible. I wanted to find a place where I also could have that same creative outlet after high school, but I didn't know how.

After starting college, I changed my major twice. I then chose Professional Writing/Journalism and discovered I wanted to be a magazine editor. Since then, I have taken courses reintroducing me to my passion for design and editing from yearbook. One of these courses is Writing for the Web. We are learning the theories of web design and creating our own websites using Dreamweaver. I am gaining knowledge that will be helpful for a future in media. Because of technology, print productions need to be adapted to the web and electronic media. I want to continue learning as much as I can about web design so that I can adapt to the changes in journalism. Two other courses I have enjoyed are Editing and English Language. English Language focused on grammar and structure. My favorite part of the Editing course was learning how to create page layout dummies. I really enjoyed taking the many pieces of a page and putting them together to create a final product.

Editing and English Language have helped me with my job as a Writing Consultant on campus. I assist other students who are having problems with their papers. I read over their papers and guide them through specific suggestions. I am also a Peer Career Advisor for Career Development. My main tasks are reviewing students' resumes, cover letters, and personal statements. All of these experiences allow me to improve my editing skills and interact with a diverse group of individuals.

Each of these parts of my life has forced me to look at the future and what I plan to do. I know that to be successful in the journalism field, I need hands-on experience. However, to gain the hands-on experience, I need the education to teach me the skills required in journalism. Because of that, I wanted to continue my education somewhere that I would be able to gain these skills. A program that focuses specifically on magazine journalism is what I need. I want to learn the in-depth information about the industry so that I can excel in the field. I believe that an advanced degree will help me accomplish that goal.

After completion of graduate school, I plan to get involved with a specialized magazine either editing or designing. Ultimately, I would like to be the Editor In Chief at a specialized magazine. I am interested in working with music and movies, cooking, and traveling. I recently spent four months studying abroad in Limerick, Ireland, and exploring various parts of Europe. I fell in love with traveling and exploring new parts of the world. I would love to be able to incorporate this into my job in magazines. I want to use my experiences traveling throughout Europe to help other travelers. I want to inform them on great travel deals or what you really don't need to pack. Traveling allows people to experience so many different cultures that are different from their own. I want to provide that experience to everyone through reading a travel magazine.