

черчению – помочь адаптироваться в студенческой среде, сориентироваться в выборе специальности при поступлении в технические вуз.

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## TEACHING WRITING A STATEMENT OF PURPOSE THE STUDENTS OF HIGHER SCHOOL.

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*The present article deals with the problem of teaching writing a Statement of Purpose the bachelor students of higher technical educational establishments. The experience of the scientists in teaching writing is analyzed. The notion 'Statement of Purpose' is determined. The structure and stages of creating a good Statement of Purpose are suggested.*

**Problem statement.** Nowadays the bachelor students of higher school in Ukraine face the urgent problem of further education in a foreign country. The greatest difficulty for them is to write a winning Statement of Purpose in order to get Master's degree at one of the universities abroad.

**Research and published works analysis.** The results of scientific research and published works analysis prove that the task of teaching writing a Statement of Purpose the students of higher school is not an easy one even for the university professors throughout the world. Ukrainian English teachers and professors faced this problem not so long ago, so they do not have enough experience in this field.

**The aim** of the present article is to draw the attention of English teachers to the necessity of teaching students how to write a Statement of Purpose and to present some useful recommendations.

**Main research results.** Rapid development of science and technology and the world economy globalization make it urgent to change approaches and methods of teaching the English language in technical universities. The necessity of mastering English as a means of communication and instrument of gaining information is growing throughout the system of education in our country. The number of students who want to get up-to-date education abroad, become demanded specialists and achieve success is steadily increasing. But they face the problem of writing the Statement of Purpose (SOP) required by grad schools. A Statement of Purpose may also be called an Application Essay, Objectives for Graduate Study, Personal Background, etc. It should present the applicant, his personal qualities and qualifications, his strengths and weaknesses, experience and skills, motivations and aspirations. To write such a document students need both profound knowledge of English and good writing communication skills.

In the course of the English language for Specific Purposes students acquire skills of writing essays, articles and theses to get ready for their further scientific work. However, the Statement of Purpose becomes the hardest thing they have ever written. To teach writing this sort of documents, first of all, students should be explained that SOP is a letter that defines their reasons to go for grad school, their

interest in the particular major, their future aspirations and their personality – skills, strengths and qualities relevant to succeed in grad school. It is neither the story of their life nor the list of their achievements. A winning Statement of Purpose needs serious preparatory work. Before writing a student should define his goals and aspirations, articulate his potential research interests, research and choose program and school and find out about them as much as possible. To cope with this task Glenn M. Callaghan, Professor of San Jose State University recommends students to write two short paragraphs answering the following questions:

1. What career have you chosen? What factors formed this decision?
2. What evidence shows that this is the correct choice? (Personal experience in the field is a good place to begin.) [1].

The structure of SOP includes: introduction, main part and conclusion. Taking into account that admission committee members read about 500 applications a day the opening paragraph of the work must be eye-catching. Vince Gotera, a University Professor of Northern Iowa calls it a "hook" and presents an example from his own experience, 'A former student of mine applying to enter a master's program in library science had a great hook. I don't remember Susan's exact words, but the opening paragraph of her statement of purpose went something like this: When I was eleven, my great-aunt Gretchen passed away and left me something that changed my life: a library of about five thousand books. Some of my best days were spent arranging and reading her books. Since then, I have wanted to be a librarian.' Such introduction tells the admissions committee about Susan's almost life-long passion not just for books but for taking care of books [2].

The opening part also introduces the student, presents his general reasons for pursuing grad school and explains the importance of grad school for him. One of my students introduced herself in the following way: My name Viktoriia originates from the Latin word 'Victory' meaning 'winner'. Thinking about it I realize that I was born with strong anticipation to win. Because of this I started going in for Taekwon-Do at 'Global Taekwon-Do Federation' in my childhood. It might seem ridiculous that a girl of eight liked single combat. But training and participation in different competitions strengthened my character and brought up many useful qualities like straightforwardness, strong will, tolerance to my rivals, etc. I achieved good results and was granted the First Dan (I degree Black Belt) in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Federation. Now I am eager to visit and study in the motherland of my favorite kind of sport to become scientifically literate and useful specialist for my own country.

In the main part the student must explain why he has chosen the area of study he wishes to specialize in and his motivations, prove relevance of his undergraduate studies to grad school (specific classes and professors, especially if they are well-known in the field, scientific work the student carried out, publications, participation in conferences, subject olympiads, etc). Description of experience relevant or inspiring for grad school may be very important. The information about the student's public service, social life, extracurricular activities and, especially, awards and honors

gives him the opportunity to relate his academic background with his extracurricular experience to show how they unite to make him a special candidate.

Closing part of SOP must be linked to the opening part, showing that the student matches to the school and the program, and convince the admission committee that he is prepared for advanced academic work and will succeed in grad school. In this part the student may also say what he can offer the program in return.

The Statement of Purpose should be honest, coherent, clear, concise and complete, well-organized and easy to read. But it should not be longer than two pages so that the Admission Committee of the University could read it up to the end.

When the work is finished the student must read it aloud, make sure that he likes the way it sounds, estimate his writing style and use of appropriate vocabulary, correct spelling and grammar mistakes. He should also ask his English teacher, faculty member, someone from the family, friend to check it for him. Professors of foreign universities advise to keep working on SOP, even after the student has sent it to grad school with earlier deadline. The student might have a later epiphany about his personal and academic background, his motives for applying for grad school, his long-term plans, and this epiphany may be just the thing that gets him into the school with the later deadline. The Statement of Purpose must be unforgettable because for Admission Committee members it can become the most important document in the application.

**Conclusion.** Having analyzed my own experience and the experience of professors from foreign universities, it becomes evident that writing SOP is a vital problem for students in many countries. Ukrainian students also do not know how to write a Statement of Purpose and English teachers hardly ever pay enough attention to this problem. The applicants have to search samples in the Internet instead of getting tips and recommendations at the lessons. Writing a Statement of Purpose should be included in the curriculum of the English language in the higher educational establishments of Ukraine if we want to give our students the opportunity to continue their studies at universities all over the world.

## References

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