

Gilman Essay #1 – Statement of Purpose

Note: This essay has a limit of 7000 characters w/ spaces.

- I. Introduction
 - a. Hook that shows who you are, states where you will go abroad, and explains your program
 - b. Sentence alluding to paragraph #2
 - c. Sentence alluding to paragraph #3
 - d. Sentence alluding to paragraph #4
 - e. Concluding statement/thesis

- II. Suitability/fit of the study abroad experience
 - a. Why are you going to study abroad?
 - b. How does this fit with your major(s) and/or minor(s)?
 - c. Why does going to X country tie in with your major/minor and your career goals?

- III. Academic preparedness
 - a. What major or minor courses have prepared you to study X in X country?
 - b. What electives have broadened your understanding of the world and how can this be beneficial to your study abroad experience?
 - c. Did you have any difficulty in your classes? Was there a particular experience? If so, please share it and reflect on how this experience has prepared you to go abroad?

- IV. Knowledges, experiences, and skills
 - a. Knowledge
 - i. What are some unique knowledges do you have?
 - ii. How can they be used in X county and in the U.S.?
 - iii. What is some interesting information you can share with students from X country?
 - b. Experiences
 - i. What is unique about your American experience and why is it important for others to know about being American and X (e.g. being Black in the U.S., being LGBTQIA+ raised in a Catholic household, being a Korean adoptee)?
 - ii. What are some life events that have prepared you to leave your home and study/live in a place that you may have never been?
 - iii. How has where you lived influence your understanding of the world? What can you draw from it to help you adjust to a different culture?
 - c. Skills
 - i. What are some soft skills (e.g. communication, organization) that you excel in? Explain how these skills are necessary for study abroad.
 - ii. What are some technical skills (e.g. writing code, creating a lesson plan, triaging patients) that you excel in? Explain how these skills will help you academically when you go abroad?

- V. Conclusion
 - a. Emphasize your uniqueness and why Gilman should select you
 - b. Acknowledge that studying/living abroad will be challenging
 - c. Rebut by sharing the knowledge/experiences/skills that will help you thrive in study abroad and benefit the program and host country