

Example Humanities-Creative Arts Personal Statement

Please describe how you became interested in this topic and any activities that you believe have prepared you to undertake this project. You should also discuss how your project relates to your graduate school, professional school, or career goals.

Professor Erin Belieu once told me that all of my poems are manifestos in their own way.

A manifesto declares publicly the intentions, motives, and views of its issuer, which means that all of my poems intend to reveal my identity through my own poetic persona. The issue of identity is central in my poems; however, my identity outside of my poems remains conflicted. Born in Bayamon, Puerto Rico, where Spanish is the dominant language, I moved to the United States shortly after my first birthday. After gaining fluency in Spanish, I went to elementary school in Florida, where I was forced to focus my attention on the English language. As a result, I no longer speak Spanish fluently, which has always made me a foreigner to my own culture. Translating poems from English to Spanish and Spanish to English, with the help of my professors, will give me a head start into relearning Spanish, reclaiming the culture I have lost, and understanding the other side of my identity. In addition, this understanding of my identity will also inspire me to write more poems, which will contribute to my thesis.

I believe that I am ready to take on this project because I have already worked with my supervising professor, Dr. Kirby, for over a year. As far as the poems, I know that I will produce good work, or, at the very least, work that has potential—with the help of Dr. Kirby, Professor Hamby, Dr. Galeano, and Dr. Kimbrell—to be good. Last year, I won the Literati Poetry Award, FSU's undergraduate department award in poetry; this year, I was a finalist for *The Kudzu Review's* Fall Poetry Contest. In addition, I have published some of my poems in national magazines.

I want to be a poet and a professor of poetry for the rest of my life. This project will help prepare me for the work I will eventually do at the graduate level. After graduation, I plan on pursuing a Master of Fine Arts degree in poetry; then, I wish to work on my Ph.D. in Poetry and 20th Century American Literature. Both of these degrees, along with my current progress towards a Bachelors degree in Creative Writing, will enable me to earn a job as an associate professor,

where I will eventually work and publish enough to gain tenure. Not only do I want to work hard enough to be a significant poet, I want my students to be great poets as well. My experience with this project will enable me to better understand myself, which will improve the poems that I will include in the manuscripts I send to graduate schools, propelling me in my own dreams, and will help me improve as a person, making me a better role model for the students I wish to see achieve their own greatness someday.