

## Example Social Science 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.*

I have always been passionate about education equality. I believe that public education should serve to make sure that all children are on an equal playing field, no matter what their socioeconomic status is. Unfortunately, I believe that oftentimes students who come from privileged backgrounds tend to get more opportunities from the public education system than students who are less well-off. Since coming to Florida State I've been involved in educational activism and advocating for access to higher education. This year I'm the director of the Center for Participant Education, which is a Student Government Association bureau that encourages students to become participants in their own education, by offering a space where students and members of the Tallahassee community can teach free classes.

Last semester, I took an honors seminar on Educational Inequality and School Reform, which is when I really became interested in the issue of school choice and segregation. The research that I would like to do this summer is based on my final paper for that class, which was on charter schools and racial segregation in Broward, Miami-Dade, and Leon counties. My results were inconclusive, which is why I am interested in expanding my research this summer.

I am also currently pursuing the Research Intensive Bachelor Certificate, which is a program in the political science department that teaches undergraduates how to conduct independent research. Through this program, I have learned how to use the statistical program Stata to analyze data, and this semester I am learning how to design my own research projects. This will allow me to properly conduct research this summer, since I will already know how to correctly design a good social science research project.

This research project relates significantly with my plans for the future. I actually intend to use the results of the research that I conduct this summer as part of an honors thesis on school choice. After I finish my undergraduate degree, I currently plan to go to graduate school to pursue a Ph.D. in political science, particularly focusing on education policy. I think that education is the only way to increase equality in our country, and I plan to spend my career working towards improving education in the United States.