STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Teacher Education Department
Ph.D. in Teaching, Learning, and Culture
What is the Statement of Purpose?

- An overview of what you plan to study and how it relates to what you have already done
  - Education, work, publications, etc.
  - Your research interest (topic, possible research questions and issues)
  - Your professional and scholarly goals

- Self-promotion

- Probably the most important piece of your application package. If all things are equal, this will be the deciding piece.

- Discuss time management issues as a doctoral student: how will you assure ample study time?
Why is it so important?

- Sell yourself as an excellent good student, hard worker, reliable, someone who will finish the degree.

- Distinguish yourself from other applicants (If we can select only a limited number of doctoral students each year, tell us why you are a good choice.)
What it tells committees

- How committed you are to a doctoral degree
- What you have accomplished
- What you hope to do/study/become with this degree
- Your potential for success as a Ph.D. student
- If your research interests are a good match for the Ph.D. program
- That your writing skills are sufficiently strong for doctoral study
A note on language

- Follow instructions
- Use academic/professional language
- Focus on your strengths and interests as relevant to doctoral study
- Show a draft to a colleague, classmate, or professor for feedback
Getting started

- Do research
  - On the discipline
  - On the program
  - On the faculty
  - On the current students
  - On the graduates from the program
Nice Touches

- Mention faculty and their specialization by name
- Describe any current research projects or publications that you are working on and how they might fit with work being done by research faculty at UTEP
Online Resource

- The UTEP Graduate School
  http://academics.utep.edu/Portals/40/PPTs/personal%20statement%2010-20-10.pdf

- The Purdue OWL
  http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/642/01/