



STR Resident Application Statement of Purpose

These are the directions and guidelines for your statement of purpose. Please create 3 separate documents to upload to the UW Graduate School application portal – 1 document per section.

Please respond in essay form. Answers should be clear and complete. Your statement should demonstrate both your commitment to teaching and your writing proficiency. Respond to each section and allot up to the maximum words indicated.

Section 1 (500 words max) – For STR Elementary Program Applicants

Tell us why you want to teach and explain why STR is the best pathway for you to become a teacher. Please include prior experiences working with children and how those experiences have prepared you for a teaching career.

OR

Section 1 (500 words max) – For STR Special Education Program Applicants

Tell us why you want to teach in Special Education and explain why STR is the best pathway for you to become a teacher. Please include prior experiences working with children (especially your experiences working with disabilities or children with special needs) and how those experiences have prepared you for a teaching career in a Special Education classroom.

Section 2 (500 words max)

Describe and reflect on experience(s) you have had as a person who brings diversity or with people who come from backgrounds different and/or have had experiences different from your own (i.e., race, ethnicity, socio-economic status, religion, culture, sexual orientation, disability, etc). Describe what you learned from these experiences AND what makes you believe this helps prepare you for teaching in an urban school.

Section 3 (1000 words max)

Explain how the following quote resonates for you. Make connections and provide specific examples referencing your values and personal story.

“We *can* educate all children if we truly want to. To do so, we must first stop attempting to quantify their capacity. We must be convinced of their inherent capability, humanity, and spiritual character. We must fight the foolishness proliferated by those who believe that one number can measure the worth and drive the education of human beings or that predetermined scripts can make for good teaching. Finally, we must learn *who* our children are – their lived cultures; their interests; and their intellectual, political, and historical legacies.”

Delpit, Lisa. *Multiplication Is for White People: Raising Expectations for Other People's Children*. The New Press: New York, 2012.