General tips for Writing Effective Essays for ETA applicants
University of Delaware Fulbright Workshop Spring 2015

**Statement of Grant Purpose English Teaching Assistant:** This is where you explain how you will be an effective English teacher and why being an ETA in a given country is a good fit for you (max 1 page).

1. Do you give a clear reason why you want to teach English? For example, instead of saying, “I’ve always liked working with children,” do you paint a picture by providing an example of a teaching/mentoring situation?
2. Do you provide examples of past work where you have taught or demonstrated leadership (e.g. camp counselor, tutor, ELI language partner, club president)?
3. If language facility is required do you discuss your language background?
4. What do you know about the host country? About the education system in that country? About current events?
5. ETA applicants do not need to plan to teach as a career. However, you need to talk about how this experience will fit into your future goals. Do you?
6. Some countries want to see a description of a small, supplemental research project focused on community involvement. If your country asks for a description, do you talk about a project that fits with your interests?

**Personal Statement** (1 page max)
The personal statement is meant to be an intellectual biography so it shouldn’t be TOO personal and stray away from the proposed experience.

1. Is your statement interesting? Do you use stories to describe important moments in your life?
2. Do you describe intellectual and/or creative highlights and relate those moments to the ETA project?
3. Do you talk about ways you will engage with the community? These ideas need to be general enough to work wherever the you are placed in the country.
4. Do the proposed ways of engagement fit with your interests and are they relevant to the proposed country?
5. Do you give examples of flexibility, initiative, and interest in other cultures? For example, if you’ve studied abroad do you give examples of meeting people, of seeking out additional cultural activities?
6. It is common for applicants to say they want to experience the culture of a country. How do you go beyond that and make a case for the specific country where you want to go?