

## **PERSONAL STATEMENT (400 words)**

I have loved traveling and reading about other cultures since I was a little girl. Sitting on the floor of our family kitchen and reading about people who lived all over the globe as well as living for a year in Argentina, instilled in me a respect for diversity and a burning desire to be an advocate for those underserved on this planet. This goal has been my reason for past formal and informal studies, and a degree in xyz will provide me the final tools I will need to meet the challenges I will face, and to be the strong advocate I would like to be. The Carol E. Macpherson Scholarship would help me greatly as I work toward my goal. Below please find my personal statement using the sections you have requested.

My plan is to complete my undergraduate degree in xyz, and pursue a career as an advocate for clean and healthy environments while living in Africa or South America. I am currently conducting research on women, water, health and law to add to the existing information about the role of women in preserving and protecting freshwater resources. In the past ten years, I completed an internship in Ethiopia and in Uganda, learned about the United Nations, and honed my organizational, advocacy and cultural skills. I needed to take a break from college while my children were young, but am now re-energized to return to school to complete the degree, and gain the knowledge and skills I need to pursue my dream.

Following my internship, I married, had a child and lived for one year in Uganda. Now, I am a single mother of three wonderful children (ages 8, 6, and 5). I love my children, and am glad to be a role model for them of a woman who continues to her education and follows her dreams.

During my break from college, I became more involved in my community by mentoring and volunteering at organizations such as Big Brothers & Big Sisters, Volunteers of America, The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), Women Leaders for a Better Tomorrow, and at a homeless shelters and soup kitchen. In addition, I worked at xyz for three years, where my passion for this field continued to grow.

As a single parent with inconsistent child support, the Carol E. Macpherson scholarship would be of great assistance in supporting my goal to finish my degree.

I work at abc, 25 hours a week, and have chosen to not work full-time to avoid day care costs and to be there to provide guidance for my children after school.

The Carol E. Macpherson Scholarship provides a chance for people who are struggling to return to school, to become the exception and succeed. I hope to become one of those special people and it is with great honor and appreciation that I submit this application for your consideration.

