**Personal Statement Grading Rubric**

***Introductory Paragraph***

1) Does the hook (the first few sentences of the introductory paragraph) actually hook you?

**1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10**

2) Is the hook concise and to the point?

**1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10**

3) Does the hook segue smoothly to the thesis?

**1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10**

4) Does the thesis answer why the writer is interested in medicine, as well as why they will be an excellent physician?

**1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10**

***Body Paragraph One***

1) Does the topic sentence relate back to the thesis chronologically, meaning, is this the first idea mentioned chronologically in the thesis?

***1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10***

2) Does the writer take an active role in the stories and/or insights mentioned in the body paragraph (are they the one the story centers on or are they the one arriving at the insights)?

***1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10***

3) Do the stories and/or insights zero in on details as much as possible, versus giving a broad overview?

***1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10***

4) Are you convinced, by the stories and/or insights, of what the applicant is trying to prove in this paragraph?

***1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10***

***Body Paragraph Two***

1) Does the topic sentence relate back to the thesis chronologically, meaning, is this the second idea mentioned chronologically in the thesis?

***1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10***

2) Does the writer take an active role in the stories and/or insights mentioned in the body paragraph (are they the one the story centers on or are they the one arriving at the insights)?

***1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10***

3) Do the stories and/or insights zero in on details as much as possible, versus giving a broad overview?

***1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10***

4) Are you convinced, by the stories and/or insights, of what the applicant is trying to prove in this paragraph?

***1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10***

***Body Paragraph Three***

1) Does the topic sentence relate back to the thesis chronologically, meaning, is this the third idea mentioned chronologically in the thesis?

***1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10***

2) Does the writer take an active role in the stories and/or insights mentioned in the body paragraph (are they the one the story centers on or are they the one arriving at the insights)?

***1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10***

3) Do the stories and/or insights zero in on details as much as possible, versus giving a broad overview?

***1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10***

4) Are you convinced, by the stories and/or insights, of what the applicant is trying to prove in this paragraph?

***1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10***

***Body Paragraph Four***

1) Does the topic sentence relate back to the thesis chronologically, meaning, is this the fourth idea mentioned chronologically in the thesis?

***1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10***

2) Does the writer take an active role in the stories and/or insights mentioned in the body paragraph (are they the one the story centers on or are they the one arriving at the insights)?

***1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10***

3) Do the stories and/or insights zero in on details as much as possible, versus giving a broad overview?

***1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10***

4) Are you convinced, by the stories and/or insights, of what the applicant is trying to prove in this paragraph?

***1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10***

***Closing Paragraph***

1) Does the closing paragraph rehash information already presented versus introducing new ideas?

***1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10***

2) Does the writer’s rewritten thesis leave you with a strong sense of their initial argument?

***1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10***

***Overall***

3) Ultimately, are you convinced of what they set out to prove in their thesis?

***1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10***