Need to write a personal statement? Highlight Your Advantage!

What is the question?
A personal statement is usually written in response to a specific question. But even a question like “Why do you want to attend our school?” needs to be answered in terms of the reader. Everyone will talk about his or her qualifications or experience.

A statement that shows how qualifications match the organization STANDS OUT!

First paragraph:
- Identify and answer the question immediately and concisely.
- Share a little bit about yourself.
- Show how your qualifications match. This claim is your thesis.

For example:
My experience as a tutor at Stephen F. Austin State University’s (SFASU) Academic Assistance Resource Center (AARC) has made me an excellent choice for a teaching internship with the Houston Independent School District.

Second Paragraph
- This is where you expand on your supporting evidence.

For example:
I worked as a tutor at SFASU’s AARC, tutoring writing because I was an English major and good at writing academic papers. I wanted to help other students learn how to write their own papers until they no longer needed my help. One time…

- Talk about specific experiences that apply instead of listing everything you’ve ever done.
- Be specific, but be concise!

Third Paragraph:
- Remind your reader of the question, and answer it again in a quick response.

For example:
Experiences such as tutoring as SFASU as well as my summer camp counseling experience will enable me to contribute to the Houston Independent School District as well as learn from this internship.

Created by Sarah Johnson, 2/17