

_____ - What's your "why"? Are your professional goals and your motivation for a career in healthcare effectively communicated?

Off-topic or too vague

Marginally addresses the prompt; needs more focus. Goals are present but not obvious

Addresses "why medicine" but needs more details on key areas or deeper reflection

Author is reflective and clearly expresses motivation and professional goals

_____ - Is the PS structured in a logical manner? Is it appropriate for the intended audience? Is anything out of place?

Paragraphs lack coherence, direction, topic sentences. No clear thesis, theme, or story.

Paragraphs have some coherence but need better transitions or topic sentences. Thesis/theme/story is partially developed

Intro has a thesis/theme. Paragraphs may be imbalanced or need more development to support thesis.

Clear thesis/theme/story. Paragraphs have topic sentences that are logical and fully developed

_____ - show, don't just tell! Is all content pertinent? Does your PS contain any "filler" or clichés?

Content is off-topic, vague, generic. No clear examples provided. Far over or under character limit

Content is somewhat weak. Needs more focus on key points/areas for discussion. Within character limit

Content offers some information about the writer. Some examples present

Content offers significant information about the writer. Stated qualities, talents, etc. clearly supported by specific examples

_____ - Does your PS demonstrate personal reflection? Does it distinguish you from other applicants? Is the author memorable or remarkable for the right reasons?

Writing does not leave a dominant impression; information is dull, vague, or lacking examples. No conclusion

Writing offers some details but does not leave a strong impression. Conclusion present

Writing offers strong details/examples but some inconsistencies with voice throughout the entire essay. Conclusion is present but not memorable

Writing has a clear voice/presence throughout; reflections on experiences, activities, background show originality/insights/reflect personality. Memorable conclusion

_____ - Is the PS grammatically sound? Are there any typos or problems with spelling, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.?

Excessive grammatical errors distract from overall fluency of essay. Sentence structure awkward or does not flow.

Multiple grammatical errors, but overall story and flow are intact. Word choice not always appropriate

Minimal grammatical errors do not distract from overall fluency of essay. Word choice and examples