**Useful Phrases**

**Why this field?**

I am drawn to X [your field] because…

My interest in X [your field] began in [2015/high school/college]…

**Your Focus**

In general, I am interested in the area of X. Specifically, I want to…

**Past Experiences**

During my undergraduate program/master’s program, **I had** the opportunity to participate in..

Over the past few years, **I’ve had** the opportunity to…

For the past few years I’ve been working with [a person/a team] on [a project].

**Explaining Failure and Showing Persistence**

Although our/my research project did not yield usable results, I learned how to…

X was a very challenging course/project for me, and while I did not earn the grade I had hoped for, I learned more from this course/project than any other. For example,/Specifically,…

**Working with a Professor, Department, Lab, or Organization**

If admitted to your program, I would be most interested in working with Professor X because of her work on/in…

Professor X’s/Highland Lab’s research on X resonates with me because I am interested in…

Because of my interest in X, I believe I would be a good fit for Professor X’s research team.

**FINDING YOUR STORY**

Why do you find your field interesting and/or exciting?

What was your favorite course? Why?

Describe a project or experience that was very difficult and maybe was not successful, but one in which you still learned a lot. What did you learn?

What do you do to work hard in your field? What are two examples of how you work hard?

What are some questions that you have about topics in your field? Why are these important questions to you?

When you feel tired or anxious about school, how do you motivate yourself to keep going?

What’s your superpower?

What will your life be like in 3 years? In 10 years?

How can you help your field/the world?

**Example Prompts**

**FELLOWSHIP PROMPT**

**Paul and Daisy Soros Fellowship (open to immigrants or the children of immigrants)**

***Essay Questions***

**Essay One** - maximum length 1000 words

Tell us about your experiences as a New American. Whether as an immigrant yourself, or as a child of immigrants, how have your experiences as a New American informed and shaped who you are and your accomplishments?

Feel free to discuss how individual people (such as family or teachers), institutions, aspects of law, culture, society or American governance made an impact on your life as an immigrant or child of immigrants. The program is interested in understanding the context of your personal, professional, and academic accomplishments.

**Essay Two** – maximum length 1000 words

Tell us about your current and near-term career-related activities and goals, as well as why you decided to pursue the specific graduate program(s) and school(s) that you have. How do you see your current work and study informing your early career goals? If you have not been accepted into a program yet, please tell us about why you selected the programs to which you are applying.

**GRADUATE SCHOOL PROMPT**

Please tell us your reasons for wanting to do graduate work in this [your field] at [University X] and what your specific interests in the field are. Additionally, we want to know about your experiences in the field, any special skills that you may bring to the program, and your career plans after graduation.