

Essay#1 "From Working Poor to Elite Scholar

Statement of Purpose, Dept of History

One of the proudest accomplishments of my life was earning my college degree despite the fact that my early ad, housecleaner. There is nothing like scrubbing someone else's toilet to inspire a commitment toward earning my degree at a house which enabled me to acquire my degree.

Enrolled at the local community college by a new encouraging academic. I learned that if I tried hard, I could succeed if I wanted something. I worked a minimum 35 hours without succumbing to the temptations with the money I earned to provide for her family. It has stood me in good stead.

With a lifelong passion for history, I have developed an interest in cultural history of early modern and modern Europeans, especially their world through popular folk tales and literature. The historical content, how they are completely different from the present. I enjoy studying the early modern period English history, especially the Tudor-Stuart period, because of the tension I have a PhD social grounding that is post-structuralist may been instrumental in shaping my current project focusing on the 17

17<sup>th</sup>-century midwife Elizabeth Cullier. In this project, I am re- the current histories of decided has emphasized within them. One of these histories as that pre-industrial professional women and struggles against patriarchy and oppression from the male medical community, when in fact Cullier's literature shows that and turned them into useful tools of and religious power.

This essay uses an outstanding personal

## GRADUATE ADMISSIONS ESSAY

As a student, I feel that my success lies in the fact that I approach my studies as if I were a professional (historian, not student, that is). I always enrolled in the most challenging courses and worked with professors I felt were the most knowledgeable. If I got one piece of advice, I would ask what I could do to improve—and usually the advice to strengthen my work. My personal academic milestone occurred while I was completing my senior thesis. This required course was taught by an Americanist Dr. Julie Worth, director of the history department—so our research topics were limited to American sources. I was able to work within my main interest, which is marginalized women, while using primary sources of *The New York Times*. My paper, “Biologically Unsound Women, Murder, and the Insanity Plea in the Progressive Era” had a preponderant use of the insanity plea for women who were outside their “innate nature” and murdered, regardless of the circumstances which drove them to kill. Although the topic was outside my focus, which is European history, the paper was selected for publication in *The Historian*.

My focus as an undergraduate has always been with an eye toward graduate school and a career as a professional historian. Aware of the rigors of graduate study, I have not only completed an undergraduate language requirement in Spanish, but also completed a course in Latin. I am a member of the Phi Alpha Honor Society, Phi Alpha Alpha, and the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society. I have also been a member of the Phi Alpha Alpha and the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society.