

## Personal Statement – Example 1

It is close to eight o'clock in the morning and already it is swelteringly hot. Marivic, a mother of five, walks slowly down the hills of her village, Kalayan, which is just outside of the small farming town of Pada Pada, in the Philippines. She's balancing an empty water jug on her head and holding one in each hand, on her way to the closest well nearly a mile from her home. There, she will spend the next several hours pumping water from a once beautiful well, now reduced to a trickling waterspout. After which, she will head back up the hills, carrying gallons of water for her family's daily needs. Tomorrow she'll be back.

Her plight is common to millions of people around the world who lack reliable and easily accessible water. Even within the United States, some regions suffer from long and dry seasons where annual rainfall is drastically little. Yet, water policy issues are often very complex due to ever changing environmental, political, and demographic conditions. The need for men and women dedicated to finding sustainable solutions to these issues is vital. This is what I would like to do with my life.

Growing up in the "arid west," particularly California and Utah, I have become increasingly concerned with water consumption issues and have developed great interest in water rights, quality, and management. During my stay in the Philippines, my concerns were only heightened. I have, therefore, decided to dedicate my life's work to developing water use policy and promoting awareness about water quality and sustainable consumption.

My undergraduate course work in environmental studies is empowering me with a fundamental understanding of ecological and social principles and the important relationship of the two in the real world. I have sought diligently to learn and apply these principles in my life. This should be evident in my academic and civic records. Upon graduating from the University of Utah in Environmental Studies I plan to seek a legal education with emphasis in environmental law. With an environmental law degree and extensive knowledge of ecological principles, I will be equipped with the skills necessary to make a difference in the field of environmental, natural resource and water policy development. In addition, as an active and dedicated citizen, I hope to teach and educate both students and professionals about the importance of conservation, preservation, and proper environmental and resource management.

I have never had to endure the hardships of scarce resources. Yet, having walked that road with Marivic and others like her, I felt, even if but for a moment, what it means to sacrifice. My goal is to someday be a part of developing solutions to problems like Marivic's so that her children and grandchildren don't have to bear those burdens. Having recently been made a father, I see the future in my daughter's eyes. My greatest hope is that like those eyes, her future and the future of Marivic's children will be full of sparkle, joy, and opportunity.