Narrative Essay Instructions

The personal narrative essay is a critically important part of your application because it reflects who you are and why you are seeking admission to the Master of Social Work program.

Your essay should

- respond to Prompts 1-4 below within 4 - 5 double-spaced pages, using 12 point Times New Roman font
- provide the Admissions Committee a clear picture of your interests and experiences that led you to apply to the MSW program
- provide the Admission Committee with a clear description of your goals and objectives as a social work professional

Please address the following four points/questions (Note: #5 is optional).

1. Describe the development of your interest in social work. Please discuss any volunteer or paid experiences in human services, community work, or other experiences that contributed to your choice of social work as a profession.

2. Describe a specific aspect or issue in social work that interests you most and explain how you became interested in this issue. In your opinion, why does this issue deserve public attention and resources? Speak to ways that the social work profession should respond to this issue, including leadership roles you might undertake.
   a. If you are a dual degree applicant, please explain how you plan to use each degree/training to address the issue you identified above. (Your response can describe your plans at the policy, program, or direct practice levels of social work.)

3. Briefly describe your experiences with giving and/or receiving help at an individual or community level. Please speak to how you have reflected on this experience. Identify which elements of the experience were most important to you and why. In what ways can you apply lessons learned from this experience to your social work practice?

4. The School of Social Work seeks students who have diverse experiences, who will enrich the classroom because they bring breadth to the learning environment, and whose post-graduation practices will represent an array of skills and interests. Describe your immediate and long-term career goals, however tentative. What special experiences, attributes, or qualities do you bring to the field of social work and academic environment?

5. (Optional). Please address any special academic or other considerations that you would like the Committee to take into account in the review of your application. This response can include anything not covered in other questions that you think we should know about you that would help us in making an admissions recommendation.