



## **Personal Statement**

Communication is among the first things that begin with the birth of a person, whether it is with a cry, by use of words, by gesture, or by any other medium. In case that ability of communication is hindered in some way, there is a lot of frustration experienced by the person as other people are not able to understand what he/she is trying to say. I have experienced this during my career as a teacher, when my students struggled with communication. It was the efforts and hard work of speech pathologists that then helped them in overcoming this difficulty, while some were not so fortunate to receive such care. These experiences with such children brought in me the passion for speech and language and to think beyond my role as only a science teacher.

As a teacher, I am responsible for contributing to the social and academic success of my students, but for children with speech communication disorders, it is a difficult task. This is because these students have to battle with the basic need of humans to communicate and connect with the world around them and share their thoughts, feelings, and ideas. When these students are not able to perform and lose their confidence because of not being able to express, I see myself failing in benefiting each individual of my class. It brings in me the desire to help them in overcoming this shortcoming, and that has led me to pursue a graduate degree in the relevant field and obtain the necessary knowledge for helping them. I believe by doing so, I will not only be able to help them in succeeding academically, but the effects of it will go much beyond the borders of the classroom.

As an initiative to understand more about this field, before I delve further deeper into its complexities, I also collaborated with the speech pathologist of my school and found out how

speech pathology sessions increased the communication abilities of the students. Watching the progress of the students in being able to express their ideas better each day, made me eager to do the same for such children, who I may encounter during my teaching career later. To prepare myself for the graduation course, I also got enrolled in Lehman College for attaining the necessary educational requirements and found it to be a really enlightening and enjoyable experience. With my accomplishments in this program, I became further motivated and felt myself more prepared for the master's program in the field.

With this graduate program, I feel I will be able to gain substantial knowledge, a strong academic foundation, and experience, of taking the challenging task of bringing improvements to the communicative abilities of students. This graduate study, I believe will allow me to explore the field of speech pathology and will make me familiar with ways in which I can help students with speech language disorders and help them in overcoming the hurdles that they face with regard to communication. With this passion to help all of my students and the motivation to make my career a fulfilling one by helping each individual in my class, to develop myself professionally, I am all set to embark on this journey of pursuing a graduate study in communication disorders.