**Psychology Personal Statement**

Everyday life involves psychology; the mind has extraordinary abilities. My curiosity of the human mind first budded from watching my sister begin her life. I began to watch her grow and see her began to develop her unique personality. I then found myself analyzing her in more depth and began to see traits that she began to develop and how she would handle situations as her traits matured. These observations made me curious about personality development. I was inspired by this to study Freud’s psychosexual and Ericson’s psychosocial theories of development. I am particularly interested in child psychology, because it is at this stage when a person's personal identity begins to build up, as children are easily influenced by their environment and what they learn from experiences, they carry their entire lives. The University of West Georgia is an ideal institution for me to further my education due to the unique humanistic approach to Psychology.

I recently volunteered at a local primary school which was an invaluable experience where I was able to observe Erickson's stages of development directly. Observing the development of children across key stages has consolidated much of the learning I have acquired in the classroom. I was able to work with the Special Needs Coordinator and participate in support sessions involving children with a wide range of special educational needs which has given me a new perspective on my classroom experiences. I also had the opportunity to meet with an Educational Psychologist where I was able to discuss her role and the various strategies used to apply psychological theory in an educational setting.

I also enjoy my other subjects which complement my study of psychology. Theology has developed my ability to evaluate different points of view and to construct complex arguments effectively. My interest in this subject led me to enter a theology essay writing competition where I won second prize. History has helped me to understand how the context and interpretation of facts can offer differing perspectives on events. This has led me to consider the influence of historical context on the development of psychological theories, for example, Milgram's obedience studies. Mathematics has improved my ability to apply theories to problem solving, and to interpret and analyze complex data.

I am hardworking and conscientious in all aspects of my life. I have worked since I was 14 where I have been responsible for both cash and customer service and always worked as part of a team. Currently I am employed as an attendant and swimming teacher by the local swimming pool.

A new interest for me has been becoming part of the Debate Club. This has helped develop my confidence and public speaking skills. It has also increased my awareness of contemporary issues, enhanced my ability to appreciate all perspectives and helped me to become more dispassionate and objective, especially when presenting an argument with which I disagree!

In summary I believe that I have the academic ability and subject passion to succeed at the University of West Georgia. I believe that my personal qualities and life experiences so far, including my balancing of part time employment alongside college work, volunteering and my various hobbies, equip me to contribute to a holistic approach toward psychological life toward human growth and development.