**MES Admissions Essay Descriptions:**

**Statement of Purpose:**

Tell us why you want to pursue graduate study in environmental studies at Evergreen in 500 to 1,000 words. Describe in some detail your experiences in education, employment, and public or community work. Explain how they influenced you to seek a graduate degree in environmental studies.

This statement helps the admission committee assess your interest and motivation for graduate study and helps the committee gauge the fit between what our program offers and what you hope to receive from it. Your essay will also be evaluated for clarity, analysis, and general writing skills.

**Analytical Essay:**

New for our 2018 application is an analytical essay to show your skill in analysis and writing.

The analytical essay requirement has **two parts**.

1. An essay on an environmental policy issue of your choosing. This component should:
	* Clearly explain the environmental policy issue
	* Describe the major contending views
	* Articulate your position
	* Defend your position with relevant evidence

You may use work that you have completed previously, as long as your final document meets the requirements for the analytical essay.

We recognize that many applicants may not have written a public policy essay before. This is your chance to demonstrate college level writing and critical thinking skills. The Admissions Committee will evaluate your essay based on:

* + The clarity and coherence of its argument
	+ The overall quality of its analysis and writing

Your essay should be no more than five (5) pages, double-spaced, not including cover page, figures (graphs, tables, etc.), citations, etc. Please include a copy of all graphs or tables as an appendix.

1. An interpretation of quantitative data relevant to this environmental policy. For this component you should identify a published graph or table with information that’s important to understand about your essay’s policy issue. The interpretation should:
	* provide a copy of the graph or table
	* provide a brief narrative summary of the methodology and data in the graph or table
	* explain the most important insight about your environmental issue based on this data

The Admissions Committee will evaluate your data interpretation based on:

* + Your understanding and translation of quantitative data.

Your interpretation should be no more than two (2) pages, double-spaced, not including the graph or table that you chose to interpret. The essay and data interpretation may follow any standard style format for a college paper. Include proper citations of all source material. [**The Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL)**](https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/) is a good resource.