

Essay revising sample series #3

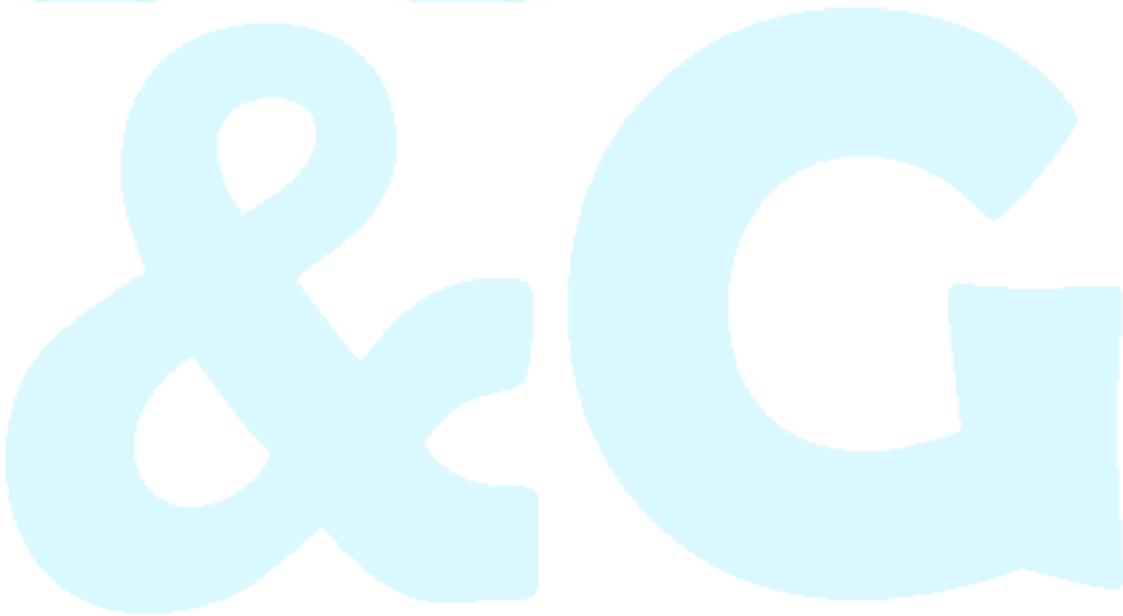
**H&G Editing Service**  
**hg-china.org (China Mainland)**  
**hgediting.org (United States)**

The author of this essay is now a graduate student pursuing master's degree in the program of Agriculture and Small Business Finance at Cornell University with full financial support.

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The revising service usually consists of two parts, 1) professional and native revising on wording and grammar and 2) some major and minor comments from the revising group members addressing fundamental deficiency of the essay or suggestions on the entire structure and organization.

Some private information appeared in the essay was replaced by \*\*\* in accordance with the author's request.



*Original Copy*

Personal Statement

When I was young, I participated in every running race in my school. Although I always ran very slowly, I can improve a little every year. Now, ten years after my first race, I got the first place in the race of my college. Never give up is just my nature, and I would like to apply this for my future study in your program.

My undergraduate study includes comprehensive field, like statistics, mathematics, market, management, and economics and so on. These courses provide me great interest in your program. At the same time, I realized that biotechnology has been developed and applied in agriculture on a world wide scale. However, the novel biotechnologies are doubted by customers since the mechanism is still not well understood. I have developed great interest in utilizing mathematical and statistical methods to solve these problems. To carry out these theoretical methods in practical situations, I launched field work studies in my home town, which is a developing township in east of china with green tea to be the main product. With recently development, more and more factories face the same problem: keeping traditional skills without too much cost or developing advantaged technology but increasing cost. According to this situation, I came up with a self-motivated study. I sent out a survey and did some interview by myself, collected data and analyzed data using economic theory and statistical method. I got the result that based on consumer's preference and set up a model to describe the correlation between profit and usage of new technologies. The results showed that technology plays a very important role for profit. This self-motivated study is simple but awarded as First Class Challenge Cup of Extracurricular Studies in my college.

However, I found that, my knowledge is very limited. I can't use advantaged skill to analyze complex problem and I don't know how to set up a model to describe practical case. That's why I pursue master degree in your program. I hope during master study, I can know more and deeper about these problems I'm really interested in. I look at detail information on your website and realize that your program focuses on practical case for reality which is my interest and suitable for my background. I also feel impressive for your international cooperation. As an international student, I think it's very good for me to plunge into an international environment of study. China is a developing country, I hope I can use the knowledge studied from international area to contribute for my country. Furthermore, I searched some representative study published by faculty in your department and their studies gave me a good example of your research. The worldwide research about development and urbanization again fits my interest and background very well.

From my background and interest mentioned above, I think I am suitable for your graduate program. However, my IBT score is not very good. Reading and Listening parts are OK for your demand. But speaking and writing parts are a little low. As an

international application, I have already realized the problem, but I believe, during life and study in America, I can improve my English very quickly. Thank you for reading my personal statement, and hope you can consider my application regardless of ineligible IBT score.



Revised Copy

Personal Statement

I'm currently a senior student pursuing a bachelor's degree in the Department of Public Management at the \*\*\* University of China, I'm writing this essay in support of my application for your M.S. program in Food and Business Economics.

While my undergraduate courses have provided me a solid background in statistics, mathematics, marketing, and management related fields, they also cultivated my particular interest in agricultural economics. My interest in agricultural economics arises because as biotechnology advances and is applied on a world wide scale, they offer an important mechanism to accelerate the economic growth in low income countries. However, these effects are as of yet poorly understood. During my undergraduate study, I have developed great interest in applying mathematical and statistical techniques to tackle these issues. Driven by the motivation to implement these theoretical methods in realistic cases, I have pursued field work studies in the development of agriculture in my home town, a typical agricultural township in East China in which the primary agricultural crop is green tea. With advances in biotechnology, some new technologies have been introduced in green tea growth and processing. Before these technologies can be implemented, one must debate the relative advantages of the newer vs. the older methods such as capital costs of implementing this new method as well as the regulatory issues that exist with the adoption of new methods. These two issues are among some of the barriers that hinder the application of new technologies. Based on these arguments, I conducted a self-motivated field work study through a customer's preference survey and a face-to-face interview with government officials. Statistical techniques were introduced to analyze the survey data and a simple model was built to reflect the correlation between the profit and the adoption of new technologies, taking the consumer's preference, the government policy, and the capital cost of new technologies as the key factors. The results were highly regarded by the tea manufacture companies in my hometown and the study was awarded as First Class Challenge Cup of Extracurricular Studies in my college.

Although feasible to the simple situation of my hometown green tea production, the applicability of this model is limited due to the few factors it takes into account. To address more complex problems more aspects of economics, such as demand and supply, consumer surplus, and competition among manufactures which are significant in the real world need to be considered. As more factors are taken into account, the model becomes more complicated problems, further graduate study is indispensable. Thus after a thorough consideration, I have decided to pursue a master's degree in agricultural economics. Through a comprehensive study of the program and the publication list of faculty members, I found that the graduate program in Agriculture and Small Business Finance at Cornell University matches both my personal interest and background very well. I am drawn to this program because it has a wide range of

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international cooperation and is issue oriented. The most impressive aspect about this graduate program is the field work which utilizes extensive international collaborations to address agricultural issues on a worldwide scale. I value the practical aspects of fieldwork as it incorporates the interactions among technology, non-governmental organizations, and government policy. Study at the Agriculture and Small Business Finance program at Cornell would provide me a unique opportunity to obtain a higher level of quantitative and analytical skills along with a broadened background. From this knowledge, I will be able to develop expertise in international agriculture cooperation, especially between China and the United States. I based my conclusion upon the representative study published by faculty members in your department. Their studies have provided me a good example of your research interests. Similar studies can be performed for the frontiers of biotechnology in United States, China, and many other countries in the world. Achievements from the research can be further implemented in facilitating agriculture development and urbanization adjustments, which precisely matches the goals emanate from my original interest.

~~From my background and interest mentioned above, I think I am suitable for your graduate program. However, my IBT score is not very good. Reading and Listening parts are OK for your demand. But speaking and writing parts are a little low. As an international application, I have already realized the problem, but I believe, during life and study in America, I can improve my English very quickly. Thank you for reading my personal statement, and hope you can consider my application regardless of ineligible IBT score.~~

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## Revising Group Comments

The essay represented your strong motivation in studying agricultural economics and your capability to conduct basic research on this field. Our writing group members have revised the wording and grammar to make the essay more professional and native. However, the essay can be further improved if the following comments can be appropriately addressed.

### Major comments

1. The first paragraph is not relevant to your motivation in studying agricultural economics. Telling a story works positively only if the story is unique and directly related to your purpose of study. If not, telling that story in your essay is not necessary. Thus paragraph can be replaced by a brief introduction of yourself to give the committee a clear understanding of your purpose at their first glance.
2. The essay should not only be a description of facts. The entire essay should be organized by following the evolution of your interest and thoughts in the field you intend to study in. To be more specific, your essay should be organized in the following way:

Why you are interested in agricultural economics → How did you prepare yourself for further study on this field → Why to choose the program at Cornell → What do you expect in your study at Cornell

By following these four parts your essay will be more reasonable and can convince the committee you are indeed in good shape to study at Cornell.

3. You do not need to explain any shortcomings on exams such as the TOEFL. A good essay will convince them that you have made significant strides in your English skills. Thus the last paragraph can be deleted.

### Minor Comments

1. The program name should be represented explicitly the first time it is mentioned. Do not use “your program” everywhere.
2. You may want to elaborate more on the model you built in the self-motivated study. If you can show what difficulty you faced and how you fixed them, it will help conveying a more logical thinking style.