

Personal Essays

Karen GJ Lewis, National Board Certified Teacher, was a public school teacher and union leader of the highest order. She embodied many admirable characteristics. Karen was compassionate, influential, innovative, reflective, resilient, and smart – just to name a few. In the Personal Statement below, please respond to each of the writing prompts. **Make sure that you do not exceed the word limitations.**

1. In 750 words or less (~3,750 characters), respond to the following prompt. **Why do you want to become a public school teacher in Chicago? Is there a CPS teacher that influenced your decision?**
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2. In 750 words or less (~3,750 characters), respond to the following prompt. **The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. Describe how you responded, how it affected you, and tell what you learned from the experience.**

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3. In 500 words or less (~2,500 characters), respond to the following prompt. **Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.**