

# Most Meaningful Experience Entry

ERAS experience description and reflection | Marked-up specimen

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An experience entry rewritten to fit inside the 750-character description field and the 300-character reflection, with the two fields doing different work.

## ORIGINAL, WITH EDITS MARKED

I was a volunteer at a free clinic in my city where I was responsible for a wide variety of different tasks including helping out with patient intake<sup>1</sup>, translating for Spanish-speaking patients, and generally assisting the physicians with whatever they needed on any given day<sup>2</sup>. This experience was incredibly meaningful to me and taught me so much about the importance of communication and empathy in the practice of medicine<sup>3</sup>. It really solidified my desire to pursue a career in internal medicine and showed me the kind of physician that I hope to become. I learned that truly listening to patients is one of the most important things a doctor can do<sup>4</sup>, and I will carry these lessons with me throughout my training and beyond as I continue to grow both personally and professionally in this wonderful field<sup>5</sup>.

## WHAT CHANGED, AND WHY

| # | Was                                                                                                                                                       | Now                                                                                                                          | Reason                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|---|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | I was a volunteer at a free clinic in my city where I was responsible for a wide variety of different tasks including helping out with patient intake     | Volunteer, Eastside Free Clinic, six hours weekly for 22 months. Ran intake for walk-in patients                             | The opening clause is replaced by the place, the commitment and the action. Fifty-two characters are recovered inside a field that counts them.                                                    |
| 2 | generally assisting the physicians with whatever they needed on any given day                                                                             | Built and maintained a two-page Spanish discharge sheet for the four conditions the clinic saw most often                    | A phrase that could describe any volunteer in any clinic is replaced by one piece of work that only this applicant did.                                                                            |
| 3 | This experience was incredibly meaningful to me and taught me so much about the importance of communication and empathy in the practice of medicine       | Removed from the description                                                                                                 | Why the experience mattered belongs in the 300-character reflection, which exists for that. Saying it in both fields spends two limits on one idea.                                                |
| 4 | I learned that truly listening to patients is one of the most important things a doctor can do                                                            | Interpreting at discharge showed me that the instruction a patient repeats back is not always the instruction that was given | A sentence almost any applicant could write is replaced by one that could only come from this work.                                                                                                |
| 5 | and I will carry these lessons with me throughout my training and beyond as I continue to grow both personally and professionally in this wonderful field | Removed                                                                                                                      | The original description runs to 806 characters. The 750-character ceiling falls inside this final clause, and a closing sentence added at the end of a draft is the part a character limit takes. |