

Student's Name

Professor's Name

Course Name/Code

Date

Graduate School Essay Example for Yale: Public Health

As a research assistant in a molecular biology lab during my junior year, I expected to spend my time running assays and maintaining cell cultures. What I did not expect was to find myself troubled by a question the lab itself could not answer: why were my neighbors in North Philadelphia dying of conditions that responded well to interventions we had already developed? The science was not the bottleneck. The dissemination was.

That question led me away from the bench and into community health education, where I spent two years developing outreach programs for underserved communities in Philadelphia. Working alongside Dr. Maria Santos at the Temple University School of Public Health, I learned to design interventions that accounted for the social determinants the lab had ignored. I also came to understand the limits of program-level work: without policy change, every successful intervention was a patch on a structural problem.

I am applying to Yale's graduate program in Public Health because of the program's specific emphasis on the intersection of health equity and policy. Dr. James Whitfield's research on technology-enabled outreach for food-insecure populations maps directly onto the gap I have been navigating, between what we know works clinically and what actually reaches the people who need it. I want to develop the policy tools to close that gap at scale.

At Yale, I plan to combine quantitative epidemiology with policy analysis, building on the fieldwork I began in Philadelphia and the methodological grounding I started under Dr. Santos. My goal is not a career in a single sector but the capacity to work at the

intersection where public health research, community practice, and legislative change converge.

