The Counselor Education Program at the University of Saint Joseph uses a personal statement essay as one piece of information that is used for admission to a degree program. In essence, we are seeking to learn more about you and how you view counseling and the nature of the helping relationship. There are two parts to this essay. The essay must be typed and double-spaced.

**Part I:**

This essay should be, at minimum, 300 words in length.

Please explain why you have chosen to enter the field of counseling at this particular time in your life.

**Part II:**

This essay should be, at minimum, 500 words in length.

a. Identify the elements that you feel are essential to developing a successful helping relationship from both the client and counselor’s perspectives.

b. Please discuss what issues may have a negative impact on the helping relationship and, as a counselor, how you deal with such issues.