Helpful Links

Personal Statement Resources

http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/pw/p_perstate.html
Purdue's Online Writing Lab provides additional questions to ask and steps to take; advice from admissions officers from several universities; and excerpts from successful application essays

http://chronicle.com/jobs/news/2006/12/2006121301c/careers.html
In this Chronicle for Higher Education article, an M.F.A. candidate in creative nonfiction investigates the purpose of "purpose statements."

http://www.duke.edu/web/english/graduate/applicationfaqs.htm
The Duke English Department offers detailed online, publicly available advice for writing a personal statement (and for applying to PhD programs in English). Question 17 on this FAQs page addresses how to write an effective personal statement. Keep in mind that different departments (and different disciplines) may be looking for different things.

http://info.gradsch.wisc.edu/admin/admissions/purpose.html
The University of Wisconsin-Madison developed this sample outline for a statement of purpose in conjunction with the University of California System. Applicants for humanities programs may want to disregard this suggested structure, which threatens to turn your essay into a clunky restatement of information that could be found on a CV, but the suggestions for content are potentially useful.

http://www.essayedge.com/graduate/essayadvice/course
Essay Edge provides an "essay writing service" that is probably unethical (and expensive!) to use, but their website has some great advice, as well as examples of personal statements for a variety of professional schools and graduate fields.

Financial Resources

http://www.finaid.org
http://www.fastweb.com
http://www.collegenet.com
http://www.cgsnet.org/ResourcesForStudents/fellowships.htm