Fulbright ETA
The Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship (ETA) is a particular type of grant proposal, requiring applicants to present themselves as someone who is:

1. Enthusiastic about and somewhat experienced in teaching
2. Knowledgeable about the specific country, often with language skills to match
3. Able to demonstrate that an ETA will be valuable for future career objectives

For the Fulbright ETA, many countries ask for applicants to propose a “civic engagement” or community involvement project outside the classroom as well. In other words, the Fulbright is looking for applicants who can not only teach English to non-native speakers, but serve also as a cultural ambassador.

Statement of Grant Purpose for the ETA: 3 Steps

Step 1: Consult the country page for the Fulbright ETA to which you will apply. The requirements and number of awards for each country vary considerably, as do the age and academic level of the students to be taught. Some countries ask for civic engagement projects, others do not. Do not make your statement location/city/town specific within the country as the Fulbright commission will place you—if awarded—where resources are available.

Step 2: Answer these questions thoughtfully and concisely and you will have an outline for your Statement of Grant Purpose:

1. Why do you want to teach English?
2. Why do you want to teach in the country you have chosen?
3. What teaching experience have you had?
4. What impressed you about this/these teaching experience(s)?
5. What other experiences have you had that would enrich your classroom?
6. What specific language learning ideas would you bring to your classroom?
7. Why would this ETA experience be beneficial to you in the future?
8. What is your idea for a civic engagement project?
9. How are you qualified to undertake this civic engagement/community involvement project?

Word of Advice on Civic Engagement/Community Involvement Projects for the ETA: When choosing a project, be sure to select something for which you are qualified, is appropriate to the age group with which you will be involved and the country you have selected. If, for example, an applicant proposes to lead an English poetry club after school, this would be appropriate for an age group with a higher level of written English ability. In addition, the Fulbright Commission might look to see that the applicant had coursework in poetry or literature on their college transcript.

Step 3: Edit and proofread your work and have others read it and offer comments. Remember, too, that you are showcasing your knowledge of the English language, so check spelling and grammar meticulously.
Personal Statement (ETA)
If the Statement of Grant Purpose describes where and what you intend to do and why you are qualified to do it, the Personal Statement is an opportunity to show who you are and what in your life has led you to this decision to apply for an ETA. In other words, this should not be a catalogue of your accomplishments, but rather a discerning look at what in your life has motivated you and engaged you and how this has translated into the choice of teaching English in this specific country you have chosen.

Try not to repeat what you have already discussed in your Statement of Grant Purpose and try to demonstrate how these experiences have qualified you for this opportunity. Remember, the best personal statements are in fact exactly that: personal. Do not be afraid to let the reader see how you have felt and thought about your life and how these feelings and thoughts have motivated you. You may also wish to include family members and teachers who have served as inspirations and mentors.

Page Format
The Statement of Grant Purpose and the Personal Statement for the ETA application are:

1. One single-spaced page for each in Times New Roman 12-point font with 1 inch margins.

2. At the top of each page enter either the “Statement of Grant Purpose” or “Personal Statement” followed in the lines beneath by 1) the applicant’s name, 2) the specific country and 3) ETA.

For more tips and formatting guidelines for the ETA, consult the Fulbright website

http://us.fulbrightonline.org/applicants/application-tips/eta

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