



How to Write a Personal Statement

Your personal statement will get sent to every college you apply to, and is an important part of helping colleges understand who you are, and what values you have. A well-written personal statement will greatly enhance your admission chances.

You should begin by deciding what you are going to write about. Think about answers to the following questions, and what you can say about them:

- What are your values?
- What was the biggest challenge you ever faced?
- What has been your greatest success?
- Have any single events shaped your life, or acted as a turning point?
- How do you spend your time outside of school?
- What are your passions?
- What turned you into the person you are now?

You don't have to answer one of the above questions in your essay; they are meant to serve as a starting point to think about what story you want to tell.

The personal statement should tell admission officers about you, and give them information they wouldn't otherwise have. This lets schools know who you are as a person, rather than just a set of numbers and test scores.



— DON'T KNOW HOW TO START? —

Some students benefit from writing the body of the essay first, then going back and writing the introduction. This can help you shape the introduction to fit the finished form of the essay.

The personal statement has a 650 word limit

You can't go longer than this, and you shouldn't be much shorter than 650 words either. The college only knows what you tell them, so make sure to include all relevant details.

You should edit your essay multiple times, both on your own, and with outside editors. Your family or teachers can give you new perspectives. When editing, make sure the topic works first, then work on the structure, then finally polish the details. Make the largest changes first, as they will cause everything else to change.

