

Personal Statements

First off, what's the purpose of a personal statement? What topics can I write about? Here are some ideas to help get you started.

Be Yourself! The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more? Describe a problem you've solved or a problem you'd like to solve. It can be an intellectual challenge, a research query, an ethical dilemma – anything that is of personal importance, no matter the scale. You can discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth. Think back on time that a topic, idea, or concept you found so engaging that it made you lose all track of time. In the end, why did it captivate you? Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. Whatever your story is, reflect upon it, explain its significance to you and the new understanding you gained of yourself and / or others.

Here are some great tips on writing personal statements: [Personal Statement](#)

If there is a specific question, answer it. This may seem like obvious advice, but it is very important. The statement is supposed to be about yourself, so use personal examples and if you wish, tell a story. But never lose focus of the question.

Make your statement applicable. For each application you should include something that personalizes it to the program or school you are applying to. Admission committees can pick out a generic statement, and you will often lose points for it. If you truly want to stand out, it is always helpful to show that you're knowledgeable of the program you are applying to.

Always proofread! There are few worse feelings than submitting a personal statement and realizing you misspelled the school or program name. Avoid clichés. You want to stand out, so why resort to using common phrases to make a point? Check your grammar.

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