
The Personal Statement

What is a Personal Statement?

What makes a successful Personal Statement?

What evidence is useful to put in my Personal Statement?

What is a Personal Statement?

- ❑ A 4000 character (47 lines) document that is your chance to impress University admissions tutors and secure a provisional place on a chosen course.
 - ❑ It is a letter of application and should make the tutor want to choose you.
 - ❑ Your Personal Statement is key to singling you out as a potential Undergraduate on a course.
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What makes a successful Personal Statement?

- ☐ The key overall aims of the statement are to say to the university:
 - ☐ *What subject you want to study*
 - ☐ *Why you want to study that subject*
 - ☐ *Why they should choose you*
 - ☐ **RANK** the statements provided according to how successful you feel they address the points above.
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What makes a successful Personal Statement?

- ☐ ***What subject you want to study...***
 - ***Your personal statement can only be for 1 subject. It is sent to all your university choices.***

 - ☐ ***Why you want to study that subject...***
 - ***Quote articles you have read, show your knowledge of that subject, display your enthusiasm and passion!***

 - ☐ ***Why they should choose you...***
 - ***State what kind of student you are, your extra curricular interests, contribution to school, leadership roles etc.***
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What makes a successful Personal Statement?

In groups of 4:

Read a personal statement each

Swap statements once finished until you have read all 4

Highlight in four colours:

- ☐ Killer sentences
 - ☐ Great evidence
 - ☐ Perfect structure
 - ☐ Motivation/spark/enthusiasm
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What makes a successful Personal Statement?

- Highlight in the 4 categories
- Make a note of good sentences



KILLER SENTENCES

that are clear, well communicated, and powerful.

GREAT EVIDENCE

of things the applicant has done to show of their knowledge / skills

PERFECT STRUCTURE

How should you order the content of your statement?

MOTIVATION / SPARK / ENTHUSIASM

Sentences that communicate a clear sense of Passion for the subject.

What makes a successful Personal Statement?

- ☐ The PERSONAL STATEMENT CHECKLIST is designed to help you assess the success of each draft.
 - ☐ **1st Draft due 5th September 2014**
 - ☐ Before attempting your first draft you need to map out your content.
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What evidence is useful to put in my Personal Statement?

☐ To help you plan:

- Begin the UCAS Personal Statement Plan
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