

Tips for Writing an Awesome Personal Statement

Your personal statement must be impressive to show that you are impressive.

It's all about **you**. A personal statement (also called a main essay) is the key part of your college application. It has to tell **your** story, discuss **your** interests and how they have shaped **you**. This will give admissions the best sense of who **you** really are.

Backing up your story with strong logic and a smart essay structure written in your own voice will leave a positive impression and hopefully get you admitted to a really great school. Be careful that your words are supported with evidence because strong statements without solid evidence will leave the reader feeling that you are not very sincere.



Do not leave the reader feeling that you are compensating for a lack of academic and personal growth by trying to convince them of something that does not really exist. The reader will recognize this right away and weak grades or test scores will make this problem even worse.

The best essays are fun to read and just an honest and straightforward story about your experiences and goals. You might be a top student and have lots to tell. Or perhaps you are not academically very special but you have leadership or other special qualities that show your different strengths. Whatever the case, the best personal statements quickly allow the reader to make up their own mind about what sort of student you will be if they admit you to their school.

Here are some tips to help you avoid the common problems that I often see in essays. Start early, take your time, don't stress and write that awesome personal statement that will get you admitted to the best school possible!

Tips for Writing an Awesome Personal Statement:

1. Read, Understand & Then Answer the Question

Carefully read the question being asked and then just answer it. Different schools may ask what appears to be the same question but they can be slightly different. Tailor your answer for each school and avoid leaving the impression that you are unable to follow instructions. Well-researched and detailed answers result in better admission outcomes.

2. Show Them Who You Are

Talk about **yourself**. Show admissions that you are well rounded and more than just a set of test scores. Emphasize **your** interest in a particular subject or extracurricular activity such as volunteering, leadership, team sports and so on. Discuss **what** you did, **what** you learned and **how** it has left you ready for success at college.

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3. Show Contribution

Colleges look for balanced students who will excel academically while they contribute to the campus community. Show that you are this type of applicant by discussing your contribution to something that you did over a period of time. Discuss specifically what you plan to contribute at college rather than offering the cliché, “I really want to get involved in campus life while at your school.”

4. Don't Bore The Reader

Admissions read thousand of essays so you need to stand out if you want to make it onto the 'yes pile'. Use a 'hook' to get the readers attention. Keep them engaged with a story that is interesting and easy to read. If the reader gets bored and starts scanning its all over. Make it easy for the reader; get to the point, stick to your topic, use simple words and keep the sentences and paragraphs short.

5. Keep It Recent

Avoid discussing experiences from elementary school or even achievements from junior high school **unless** they show long progression or preparation for achieving more recent and higher level goals. The reader wants to know who you are today, not who you were 3-4 years ago. Discussing old experiences might also let the reader feel that you have achieved nothing special in high school.

6. Be Smart, Be Curious

Colleges are intellectual places so it is helpful to show your intellectual vitality. What are you curious about? What turns your mind on? What subjects interest you and how do you wish to pursue those interests at college. What have you done to prepare yourself for that pursuit? Study and life balance are important too; college is not just about academics so make sure that comes through in your essay.

7. Passion can backfire

I often see students write about their 'passion' for something, using the word 'passion' repeatedly throughout their essay in an effort to convince the reader that they are indeed passionate about a certain activity or hobby. What I don't often see is enough evidence in the essay to show a true passion for something versus a mere interest in something. Be careful about your passion. Also be careful about the overuse of buzz words.

8. Be Cautious With Humor & Opinions

You never know what someone is going to think about what you write. While it is important to take a risk, it is not important to take a chance. You might think you are funny, but will the reader think so? Will the reader agree with your extreme viewpoint on some controversial subject? Be sensible in what you write; people can read things differently than you intended and get turned off easily.

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9. Write Using Your Own Voice

Admissions readers are highly experienced and can quickly detect frauds or essays that are modified from other people's work. As a high school student applying for college, no one expects you to write like a PhD so make sure the level of writing in your essay uses your voice and not that of someone else. It's fine to get help, but in the end, the essay needs to speak about who you are.

10. Invest In Success

Where you study will affect the outcome of your life, so don't take anything for granted. Start early, do some research and reach out to others for their ideas and advice. Discuss your essay ideas with your college advisor and parents. Invest in getting some professional support to polish up your application and change your life by get admitted to the best school possible!

Addmitto is College Admissions Made Easy™



Your grades and test scores are already fixed so the only part of the application that you have any control over is your essays. Get some help with topics and telling your story with a full service coaching package or use our hourly editing services to get your essays just right.

About Addmitto

ADDMITTO was founded to help undergraduate applicants structure their experience and goals in a way that highlights their strengths, deals with their weak points and sets them apart from other applicants through their college admission essays and interviews.

Take an admission coaching session with us on Skype to discuss your admission strategy, choose admission essay topics or to get some help smoothing over the rough spots in your application. Stand out from other applicants by getting your essays edited and restructured to leave a more solid impact on the reader. An interview preparation session will help you to master the art of the interview and practice for the main event, helping you gain even more of an edge over your competition.

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