

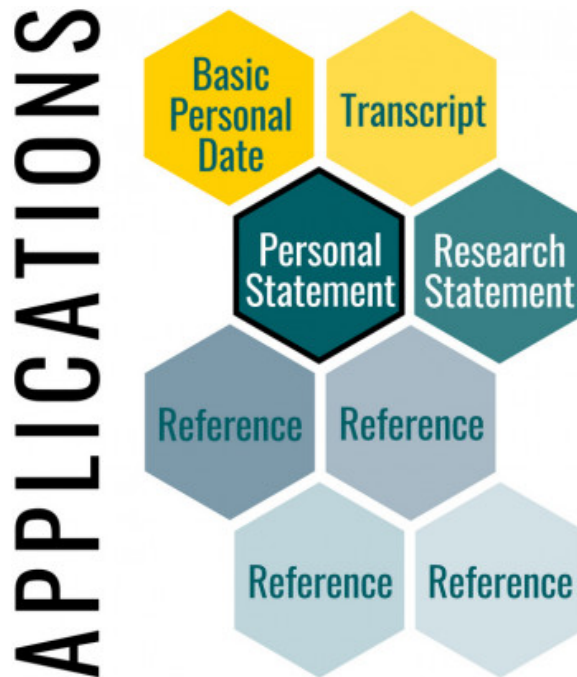
WRITING YOUR PERSONAL STATEMENT

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AN INTELLECTUAL NARRATIVE

Provides the reader with a sense of your priorities and judgement, allowing them to know you more personally.

The personal statement is just one, but very important, part of an application. **Each personal statement must be tailored to each specific application.** Pay close attention to the prompt, as some things you may include in a personal statement for one application may make more sense to include in another part of a different application.



WRITING & EDITING SUGGESTIONS

- Keep your primary points brief and clear. Reviewers will likely skim your statement because of the volume they are reviewing.
- While addressing the prompt, be sure to keep to word or character limits.
- Your opening sentence should catch the reader's attention and last sentence pulls ideas in the essay together. Conclude with something specific and visionary.
- Be sure there is a thread connecting the different parts of the essay.

- Give specific, detailed examples to illustrate each of the points made. Make it relevant; if it's not, then it doesn't belong.
- Be sure topic sentences [first sentence of each paragraph] lay out an idea that is then developed and illustrated by the following paragraph.
- **Edit your statement.** Have many people read your statements and provide feedback. Cut out unnecessary words and avoid cliches.

BRAINSTORMING YOUR ESSAY

As you begin planning your essay, consider the following:

- What is special, unique or distinctive about you and your life story?
- What details in your life shaped you or influenced your goals?
- When did you become interested in this opportunity and what have you chosen to do to reinforce your conviction in pursuing this opportunity?
- What do you know about this field and how did you learn it?
- What are your career goals?
- Are there gaps or discrepancies in your academic record worth explaining?
- Have you made any mistakes or have any regrets that taught you something important about yourself?
- Why might you be more successful and effective in this opportunity than other applicants?

The Personal Statement Broken Down



TELL YOUR STORY: YOUR QUALIFICATION [BACKGROUND, SKILLS, EXPERIENCES, TRAITS]

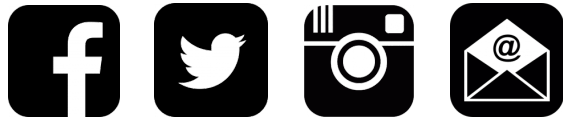
DEMONSTRATE YOUR FIT OR SUITABILITY: CONNECT YOUR STORY WITH YOUR FUTURE, SHOW HOW THE OPPORTUNITY IS ESSENTIAL FOR A BRIGHT, MORE SUCCESSFUL FUTURE

PROJECT YOUR FUTURE: SHORT TERM [1-3 YEARS], LONG TERM [5+ YEARS]

Additional Resources: [Writing Personal Statements Online](#), [Purdue OWL](#)

TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT, CALL 765-658-4622, OR
EMAIL HUBBARD@DEPAUW.EDU
GUIDES & RESOURCES

CONTACT INFORMATION



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