

WRITING A PERSONAL STATEMENT



First paragraph - INTRODUCTION

Should answer the most important question:

**WHY DO YOU WANT TO STUDY THE
COURSE?**

Begin by giving:

A brief but convincing explanation of what was your personal trigger that got you interested, this could be:

- ✓ a book
- ✓ a documentary
- ✓ a childhood experience
- ✓ work experience

Develop by saying:

- * **Why is this subject important and inspiring to you?**
- * **What motivates you personally to study it?**
- * **Show your passion for the subject!**
- * **Why do you think this subject is significant to society?**
- * **Relate it to current affairs and be specific**

Focus on:

- * **Specific areas of interest within your chosen subject**
- * **In what way do you hope this degree will develop your passion further**
- * **If using quotes make sure they directly relate to your course and why you want to study it**

Second paragraph - ACADEMIC

This should form the most important part of your personal statement.

This is where you sell your academic ability and your interest in the course.

Start with what you have been doing in school

- * How your A-levels have fired interest in your subject
- * Which aspects of your subjects did you enjoy most?
- * How does this relate to the course you want to study?
- * What skills are you learning that will be useful for the degree? (essay-writing, critical analysis, research, logic)

Take it out of the classroom

- * **What extra-curricular activities have you done in pursuit of greater understanding of your degree subject?**
 - **Trips (theatre, museum, exhibitions,)**
 - **Workshops, seminars and tutorials**
 - **Summer schools**
 - **Books**
 - **Research**
 - **Documentaries**
 - **Any experience you found inspiring and why?**

Work experience

- * **Crucial if applying to vocational studies**
- * **How does the work experience relate to the course?**
- * **What skills have you developed along the way?**
- * **Have you gained any additional qualifications?**

Remember

- * **Show your potential**
- * **Relate everything to your chosen course**
- * **Be honest about your achievements and things you claim you have done – there is a chance you will be asked about it in an interview!**

Third paragraph

***This is where you show your wider skills**

Non academic achievements

- * Can be in or out of school
- * Your interests and hobbies
- * Any activities not related to your course
- * This could be volunteering or work experience (not related to your degree subject), clubs - sport, music, etc, part-time job,
- * Have you held any positions with responsibilities (prefect, head boy/girl, peer mentor, buddy)

What skills did you develop to make you a well-rounded individual?

- * **Communication**
- * **Commitment**
- * **Time management**
- * **Teamwork**
- * **Public speaking**
- * **Leadership**
- * **Sense of responsibility**

Conclusion - the closing paragraph

- * This is the last thing that the tutor will read so summarise exactly why they should select you, what your career aims are (if you have any) and how you are the perfect candidate.

You must avoid the following:

- **Waffle**
- **Bluff**
- **Repetition**
- **Clichés ("I've always wanted to study...")**
- **Immaturity**
- **Starting sentences with 'Also', 'I read that...' or 'I did this...'**

And finally....

- * You have 47 lines to sell yourself (that's 4000 characters including spaces)
- * Make it sharp, crisp, interesting, to the point and clear.
- * Do the admissions tutors a favour and don't bore them!