

**+** Your personal statement is your opportunity to sell yourself as an individual.

College applications have multiple components. The personal statement serves as a space to share information with the admission committee about you as a unique individual that the rest of the application alone can't really measure.



## Dos and Don'ts

**Do** Start writing your essay WELL in advance of the deadline; give yourself plenty of time for several drafts!

**Don't** be afraid to be vulnerable. This is a space for you to let the committee get a picture of who you are.

**Do** Be concise. There is not a lot of room in most personal statements, so make sure to choose words that best represent you.

**Don't** be vague or just make a list. Provide examples to support points you make and avoid simply listing your accomplishments

**Do** Have as many people read it as possible. Ask for constructive feedback from family, teachers, counselors and friends.



**+** Thinking about using a quote?

Quotes can be a good way to set the tone for your statement. Avoid the following common mistakes when using quotes:

1) Do not simply have a quote floating at the top of the page. Make sure to integrate it into your essay and tell the reader how it inspires you.

2) Make sure your quote is properly and accurately quoted.

## Tips for writing your personal statement

- **Show focus and dedication in your writing.** Universities are limited in the number of students they can extend admission to, so they are looking for students who are focused. This doesn't mean that you have to know exactly what you want to do, but you do want to make sure you come across as a reliable and dedicated student.
- **Talk about your "transferable skills".** Ask yourself, "What do I think this university is looking for?" Then ask, "What skills do I have that address what they are looking for?" Prove that you have these skills by discussing all the relevant activities or experiences you've had that have helped you develop them.
- **It is a good idea to stay well informed** on local, national or global news. This could be a good way to connect your interest in a particular major on events that are relevant.
- **Relax.** The personal statement is just one of many items that the admissions committee considers. The committee will not make a decision based on your personal statement alone.