

# Lesson 10:

## Creating a Personal Statement

Even the brightest students often have a tough time deciding what to write about and how to convey their message clearly. This three-part lesson plan helps provide the guidance to set them in the right direction.

### Student Learning Objective:

Develop and differentiate your personal statement.

### Materials You'll Need:

1. Pen and paper
2. Worksheets
3. Computers and Internet access

#### Part A: Personal statement brainstorming

1. Explain to your students the importance of the personal statement.
  - a. It is the part of the application that they have the most control over.
  - b. It is their opportunity to help admissions representatives get to know who they are and what makes them unique.
2. Ask students to review the questions in section 1 of their worksheet and write a “yes” next to questions that apply to them. Feel free to add your own questions and ask the class to do the same.
3. Have each student write down a paragraph about themselves as it relates to their answers.

#### Part B: Answer personal statement prompts

1. Invite 3 colleges to chat on the day of this lesson. Reserve time in the computer lab and hand out worksheets.
2. Have students login to CollegeWeekLive.com. (It will take a few minutes to register if they haven't already done so.)
3. Encourage students to chat with admissions representatives at these schools, and ask them what the personal statement prompts are for this year's college application.
4. Have the students write down the prompts and then go back to the brainstorming essay to see which answers best fit each prompt.

### Standards:

**Standard A:** Students will acquire the knowledge, attitudes and interpersonal skills to help them understand and respect self and others.

**PS:A1.2** Identify values, attitudes and beliefs

**PS:A1.10** Identify personal strengths and assets

**PS:A1.11** Identify and discuss changing personal and social roles

**PS:A1.12** Identify and recognize changing family roles

Source: American School Counselor Association. ASCA National Standards for Students. Alexandria, VA: Author.

Note: These standards were recommended by CollegeWeekLive and may or may not comply with state/school specific standards. Teachers and counselors are encouraged to explore the complete listing of ASCA National Standards for Students, as well as their school and state standards, to find additional opportunities to incorporate the CollegeWeekLive curriculum.