

Worksheet: Writing your personal statement

Step 1: Review the below list of questions. This will help you come up with topics to write about.

HOME AND FAMILY

- Have you lived outside the U.S.?
- Are you the first person in your family to go to college?
- Does your family speak a language other than English?
- Do you live in a non-traditional family?
- Do your parents have unusual jobs?
- Did you move a lot growing up?
- Did you live in another country?
- Do you live in a town with a unique setting?
- Do you look up to anyone in your family?
- Has your family faced any hardships?

EDUCATION

- Have you won any awards or recognitions?
- Have you worked on a special class project?
- Do you have a favorite class that relates to what you want to major in?
- Have you had any hard classes that you were determined to do well in?
- Do you have someone at school you look up to?
- Has your school gone through any hard times lately?
- Are you part of a special college-going program? Gifted program?

ACTIVITIES

- Do you play a sport?
- Are you a part of a school organization?
- Are you leader of a team or a club?
- Were you an underdog?
- Do you perform community service outside of school?
- Have you made any contributions to your community?

HOBBIES

- Do you play an instrument?
- Do you do anything creative?
- Do you have a favorite book?
- Do you have a role model?
- Do you have a favorite quote?

EVERYTHING ELSE – UNIQUENESS!

- Do you have anything about you that makes you different?
- Have you ever been outside of the U.S.?

Step 2: Write down a paragraph about yourself as it relates to one of the above answers. It doesn't have to be perfect. It's just an exercise to help you get started.

Worksheet: Writing your personal statement (cont.)

Step 3. Chat with admissions representatives and ask them about their personal statement prompts. Jot down the answers below.

Name of college/university: _____
Prompt: _____
Word count: _____
Any additional instructions: _____

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Step 4: See if your sample essay matches well with any of the above prompts.