

Learning Support Center: MUK 113

Phone: 425-640-1089

<http://lsc.edcc.edu>

WRITING YOUR PERSONAL STATEMENT FOR COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

RESEARCH AND PREPARATION:

About the university...

- Check application deadlines
- Read the questions and prompts carefully
- Research the university's mission, programs in field of interest

About you...

- Allow plenty of time to reflect, write, revise, and edit
- Reflect about yourself as an individual and your story
- Think about what makes you a good match for this university

BEGINNING TO WRITE:

The university is looking for...

- What your personal statement shows beyond your transcripts and application details
- How you are unique among the many applicants to their university each year
- Your preparation for college as seen in your ability to reflect on yourself and to show depth of thought
- Your preparation for college level work and writing, especially as transfer students with some college

You show that you are a strong applicant when you...

- Write in your own voice, taking the opportunity to tell your story as narrative in 1st person
- Open with a strong paragraph which captures the reader's interest yet is authentic and unique to you
- Go deeper by explaining the impact your experiences have had on you and by being specific and concise
- Use academic language, write clearly and naturally, and avoid overuse of thesaurus (or pocket translators)

REVISION:

The university is looking for...

- Your commitment as reflected in the care and the attention you put into your essay
- College level writing especially from transfer students--admissions staff have attended college
- Applicants who value education---your readers are academics themselves

You show that you are a strong applicant when you...

- Recheck that you have answered all questions and followed length and formatting instructions
- Revise for grammar and mechanics, getting help if needed
- Address academic and professional goals rather than describing education as a means to a good paying job

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ADDITIONAL HELPFUL RESOURCES ABOUT WRITING PERSONAL STATEMENTS FOR COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

Tips for Writing Your College Application Essay (ACM):

<http://www.acm.edu/uploads/cms/documents/acm-college-guide-writing-essay.pdf>

Writing the Personal Statement (OWL at Purdue):

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/642/01/>

College Admission Essay: How to Write It (Santa Ana College):

http://www.sac.edu/students/library/nealley/pathfinders/meb_essay.htm

Writing Your Essay: Personal Statement for College (Stanford University):

http://smysp.stanford.edu/family/essay_writing.html