



PERSONAL STATEMENTS 101

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1.

ESSAY STRUCTURE

Let's start with the basics



MAKING AN ARGUMENT FOR YOURSELF



12 point font

Double- spaced

3- 5 paragraphs in length, unless otherwise noted

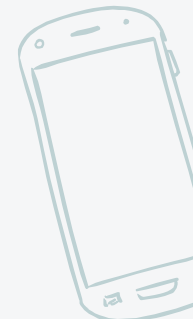





1. Intro paragraph

- Catchy intro
- Immediately answer the prompt
- Briefly state your supporting topics that you will cover in the essay. This is your thesis.

2. 2-3 Supporting paragraphs

- Clear topic sentence supporting thesis
- 2-3 pieces of supporting evidence
- Ending sentence ties together what you said in your paragraph.
- Repeat!

3. Conclusion

- Say what you just said!
 - Rephrase your thesis
 - Summarize how topic sentences support thesis
 - Donesies! 😊
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2. DO'S AND DON'TS





Do





- *Answer all parts of a question*
- *Follow the Five Cs: Creative, Candid, Concise, Confident, & Clear*
- *Discuss accomplishments, involvement, and “fit”*
- *Share goals and long-term plan*
- *Stay positive!*

Adapted from:
<http://university.which.co.uk>






DON'T

- ✗ Forget resiliency
- ✗ Write about sports too much
- ✗ Write informally
- ✗ Forget to proofread



The reader wants to see that you are prepared for college. Don't distract them with typos and sob stories!





3.

BRAINSTORM

What makes you, you?





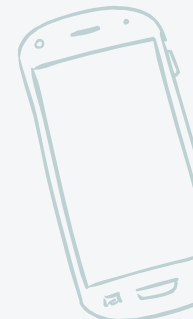
SAMPLE OPENING SENTENCES

1. “I have been surfing Lake Michigan since I was 3 years old.”
2. “*On a hot Hollywood evening, I sat on a bike, sweltering in a winter coat and furry boots.*”
3. “I change my name each time I place an order at Starbucks.”










Source:

http://alumni.stanford.edu/get/page/magazine/article/?article_id=31010





WHAT ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS ABOUT YOU?

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- What excites you?
 - What is unique about you?
 - Do you have special skills/ interests?
 - Have you overcome an obstacle?
 - Why is this college so special to you?

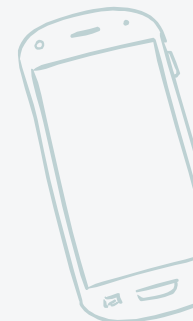


TRY WRITING YOUR OPENING SENTENCE



Take your favorite answers from the previous slides and put them into an opening sentence

3-5 minutes





WHAT'S YOUR OPENING SENTENCE SAY
ABOUT YOU?



CONTACT ME
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