

WRITING YOUR
PERSONAL
STATEMENT FOR
UC APPLICATIONS

WHAT IS A PERSONAL STATEMENT?

Your opportunity to provide the university more information about yourself that has not been told on the application.

A chance for you to give the university strong reasons why you should be admitted out of thousands of applicants.

Write only about events and experiences that happened in high school (year 9 -12)

2 Essays = 1,000 words total. Minimum of 250 words per essay. However, plan to divide your 1,000 words allowance between 2 essays: 500/500 or 600/400

WRITING YOUR PERSONAL STATEMENT

- ◉ Plan to format your writing for each topic and stay within the word limit:
 - ◉ Introduction (~1 paragraph or 100 words)
 - ◉ Body (~1-3 paragraphs or 300-400 words)
 - ◉ Conclusion (~1 paragraph or 100 words)
- ◉ Stay on topic - always remember what the topic is and what the prompts are asking.
- ◉ Be specific and detailed. (Check-out our blog for a Word List)
- ◉ Keep it interesting and positive - for instance, if you mention about your failure, please focus on how you overcame or what you learned to do better.

WRITING YOUR PERSONAL STATEMENT

- ◉ Vary your sentences and use transitions
 - Do not begin your sentence with “I” all the time. When describing what happened in the past, please use “past-tense”.
- ◉ Use formal language
 - You should spell out abbreviations
 - “You are” instead of “You’re”
 - You should not use slang or texting languages
 - “gonna”, “wanna”, “ur”, “BTW”, or “LOL!”
- ◉ Additional Tips
- ◉ Revise, revise, revise! Proofread, proofread, proofread!
DO NOT copy or plagiarize!!

PROMPT 1

- ◉ Describe the world you come from — for example, your family, community or school — and tell us how your world has shaped your dreams and aspirations
 1. Describe the world you come from
 - ◉ your family, community OR school (pick only 1)
 2. how has your world has shaped your dreams AND aspirations (talk about both!)
 - ◉ Dreams: things you wish for
 - ◉ Aspirations: planned, attainable goals

PROMPT 1: Describe the world you come from—for example, your family, community or school—and tell us how your world has shaped your dreams and aspirations.

MY WORLD (Who/what has influenced your life?)

1

Family

(It can be anyone in your family)
List at least 1

Mother

- She is caring and hard working
- She was very sick w/ heart condition
- She is a strong person, a fighter

Father

- Takes good care of me and my family.
- Is a business man

2

Community

(It can be your country, city, neighbor)
List at least 1

Air Pollution

- The air in my city is bad
- People get sick
- Unhealthy environment
- I want to change the situation

Shanghai, my city

- Many historical buildings and is a seaport

3

School

(It can be your teacher, classmate, class)
List at least 1

My Tennis Coach

- My coach motivates me and pushes me to do my best
- He is considerate and hard working
- Is a good leader

4

NOW THINK ABOUT:

- Who has made the biggest impact or influence on you? Who has changed your life or inspired you?
 - What events have made a difference in your life or changed your life?
 - What is important about your family, community, OR school?
-
- My mom made the biggest influence. When she was very sick, she was fighting so hard to get better. She inspired me that nothing is too big to get accomplished.
 - The polluted air in my city is a big problem. People are getting sick. One vacation, my mother and I travelled to the mountains where the air is so clean. I still remember the beautiful nature and blue sky.
 - My tennis coach always believes in me. She inspires me to train hard every day.

MY DREAMS

- Where do you see yourself in 20 years?
 - What will you be doing or hope to accomplish in 20 years?
 - What are your dream jobs?
 - Where does your dream come from?
- List at least 2 dreams here and be detailed and specific**

- I will have a good paying job. I want to make a difference in people's lives.
- I want help sick and poor people.
- I want to have clean air in my country and help the environment
- Doctor? Engineer?
- My dream comes from my sick mother and the bad air in my city.

THIS IS A SAMPLE FOR YOU; DO NOT COPY!!!

PROMPT 2

- Tell us about a personal quality, talent, accomplishment, contribution or experience that is important to you. What about this quality or accomplishment makes you proud and how does it relate to the person you are?
 1. Tell us about a personal quality, talent, accomplishment, contribution OR experience that is important to you (choose only 1)
 2. What about this quality or accomplishment makes you proud?
 3. how does it relate to the person you are?

PROMPT 2: TELL US ABOUT A PERSONAL QUALITY, TALENT, ACCOMPLISHMENT, CONTRIBUTION OR EXPERIENCE THAT IS IMPORANT TO YOU. WHAT ABOUT THIS QUALITY OR ACCOMPLISHMENT MAKES YOU PROUD AND HOW DOES IT RELATE TO THE PERSON YOU ARE?

WHO AM I?

MY SKILLS & HOBBIES

1 (musical instrument, outdoor activities, martial arts, computer programming, reading, etc.)

LIST AT LEAST 3

1. Enjoy reading mystery novels
2. Play PC Games (LOL and Mine Craft) all the time
3. Playing flute
4. Painting
5. Cooking

MY ROLES & PERSONALITY TRAITS

2 (problem-solver, optimistic, enthusiastic, etc.)

LIST AT LEAST 3

1. Role model to younger sister
2. Care taker to my grandmother
3. Leader in Student Union
4. Member of the tennis team
5. Class monitor
6. Optimistic - see the best in every situation and everyone
7. Enthusiastic - excited/passionate

WHAT HAVE I DONE?

MY ACCOMPLISHMENTS & CONTRIBUTIONS

3 (awards, honors, etc.)

LIST AT LEAST 2

1. 1st place in school's sport meet
2. 2nd place at science fair
3. 3rd place in flute competition
4. Received 3 Good Student Award

MY EXPERIENCES

4 (activities, community service, travels, challenging situations, internships/jobs, etc.)

LIST AT LEAST 2

1. Internship at my uncle's company
2. Traveled to Mount Hua and climbed it!
3. I am active in cleaning the streets in my city
4. Job as a cashier at the local grocery store
5. Founded a new club at my school
6. Mother was sick

THIS IS A SAMPLE ONLY; DO NOT COPY!!!

ASSIGNMENT

Your counselor will email you when your first draft is due. Always submit your TWO Personal Statements ON TIME to turnitin.com. Each of your statements should:

- Be TYPED on a Word Processor
- Be DOUBLE SPACED (space between each line),
- Include your NAME at the top of each P.S.
- Include a WORD COUNT showing how many total words you have in each P.S.

For additional help on how to write a good personal statement, please visit the IUPP blog at <http://iuppblog.weebly.com> and click on "Updates".

SAMPLE FORMATING