

UC Counselor Conference

The Personal Statement

Purpose of the Personal Statement

- Adds clarity, depth and meaning to information collected in other parts of the application
- Completes the application
- Gives the reader a complete picture of who you are

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Personal Prompt

- Read the personal statement questions carefully.
- Think about these questions:
 - What's important to you?
 - What qualities/characteristics define you?
 - Which of these qualities/characteristics is most prominent?
 - Do these qualities appeal to the reader? Why?

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Creating Your Personal Statement

- Be honest, find your voice, provide examples
- BE CREATIVE! UNIQUE!
- Think "how will I make my personal statement stand out from other essays?"

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"YOUR" Personal Statement

Your personal statement should be written by you and only you. It should include your ideas and have your own personal style. Remember it is a reflection of who you are. No one knows you better than you.

Remember the reader is looking for something that separates you from your application and transcripts. What is going to make your statement stand out from the rest?

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Creating a Strong Statement

- **Start on your personal statement early.**
- Give yourself time to think about your topics, and carefully consider the rationale behind each question.
- **Be clear. Be focused. Be organized.**
- Make sure your personal statement follows a logical structure.

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Creating a Strong Statement

- **Give yourself time to edit.** Start writing to answer each prompt, then go back and review the word count, content and overall message. You may not have space to say everything so make your words count

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Creating a Strong Statement

- **Stick to one topic per response.** Making a list of accomplishments, activities, awards or work will lessen the impact of your words. Expand on a topic by using examples and facts for maximum impact

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Creating a Strong Statement

- **Use plenty of “I” statements**
 - Talk about yourself so the reader can get to know your personality, talents, accomplishments and potential Share your writing with others
- **Share your writing**
 - Seek feedback for clarity, content, and style
 - Pay attention to correct grammar and punctuation

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Creating a Strong Statement

- **Use specific examples to illustrate your ideas.**
 - Show initiative with concrete examples of demonstrated examples of motivation and leadership
- **How have you assigned meaning to those experiences? How have they helped you grow?**
 - Show evidence in your writing of who you are, where you’re going, and how your education and experience will help you achieve your goals.

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Resources

The Writer’s Resource Center

Located in the Learning Resource Center, LR -124.

- **What services does the WRC offer?**
- English faculty provide one-on-one writing assistance for all disciplines
- Half-hour conferencing sessions
- Help with any writing process
 - Brainstorming
 - Outlining
 - Organizing
 - Formatting, citing, creating bibliographies
 - Revising for fluidity and coherence

Go to LR 126B check-in desk and sign up for a half-hour appointment
Call WRC (562-463-3122) to secure a half-hour appointment

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