How to Write a Personal Statement

A personal statement should give the reader an idea of the sort of person you are, your interests, skills, qualities and achievements. It should also tell the reader some of your goals and ambitions for the future. You are likely to need a personal statement for many things in the future, such as college, sixth form and university applications.

Below are some useful points to include in your personal statement:

- An outline of your current career plan and any steps taken towards this goal, e.g. job shadowing, careers advice.
- Work experience and any current part-time employment.
- What skills have these taught you?
- Why do you want to go to college, sixth form, university?
- Any specific university ambitions that you have.
- What is the rationale behind your course combination?
- Responsibilities you may have in the home, at school, or in other organisations. (This could include caring for siblings, or a parent, or making a significant contribution to any aspect of helping at home. In school, it might be being a prefect, being on the school council, or organising charity, arts or sports events. Outside of school this may involve helping with the local Scout/Guide pack or being involved with a Youth Council/Group.
- Any significant achievements in the last two years– awards at school, representative sporting honours, public performances in the arts, maths/science competitions, etc.
- Special interests or hobbies that you have (Don't include shopping, watching TV or socialising with friends/family)
- What books have you read?
- What book are you reading at present?
- Who are your heroes?
- What or who inspires you?
- Your personal qualities
- Your strengths and weaknesses

For examples of Personal Statements, visit www.universitycompare.com/personal-statement-examples