

THE PERSONAL STATEMENT

What is the Personal Statement? The Personal Statement is an integral part of the UC application. The content of the Personal Statement should add clarity, depth, richness, and meaning to the information you present in other parts of your UC application, enabling the reader to better understand who you are as an applicant.

Prompt #1:

What is your intended major? Discuss how your interest in the major developed and describe any experience you have had in the field – such as volunteer work, internships and employment, participation in student organizations and activities – and what you have gained from your involvement.

Things to Consider:

(Past/Present)

Course work experience

Work with faculty

Research projects

Extracurricular readings (publications, newspaper articles, journals, magazines, etc.).

Volunteer work

Internships

Employment

Academic-based student clubs/organizations

(Future---Vision)

Career aspirations

Link between major and career goal

Why this career?

Discuss the anticipated reward/personal satisfaction

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?

Things to Consider:

List what you consider to be a personal quality, an accomplishment, a contribution, or experience that is important to you. Brainstorm your description of each. Elaborate further, and refine your discussion on the one that elicits the most passion, the most detail, the most conviction.

Some Suggestions:

Initiate the process by just writing---don't worry about the word count!! As you gather and organize your thoughts, the editing process will guide you towards the word limit.

Try to avoid using the same topic (or examples) in both responses. Every piece of new information can add clarity to who you are.

Remember to talk about yourself so that the reader can

- (1) get to know what motivates you,
- (2) gain insight to your personality,
- (3) understand your talents,
- (4) appreciate your accomplishments, and
- (5) learn of your potential to succeed at a UC campus.

Use details and examples to make your point. Write to add context and depth, not to fill space.

Highlight your experiences and demonstrate how they contribute to the person you are today.

Finally:

Read each draft out loud.

Does it make sense?

Do your thoughts "flow" with each sentence adding clarity and depth to who you are?

Have a friend or two read your draft. Get their feedback.

Have someone who tutors English read your draft.