

Personal Statement Workshop

Objective: Students will be able to write a personal statement for their college application.

Overview: The personal statement is the student's opportunity to "sell" themselves in the application process. However, before you even begin we will go through some personal statement ideas, and the do's and don'ts of a personal statement.

Materials:

Computer/projector (<http://owl.english.purdue.edu>) or Handout 2: Purdue list
Handout 1: Personal Statement Workshop
Lined paper
Pencils
Power point

Preparation:

A week prior check the website to make sure the information is still present. Create a keynote/PowerPoint with the cited information needed.

Instruction: (55 minutes)

Part 1: (5 minutes)

a. Ask students to verbally brainstorm with a partner what the purpose of a personal statement is.

Part 2: (15 minutes)

- a. Once students have an idea of what a personal statement is, have them turn to the Personal Statement Workshop (handout 1).
- b. The students will follow along with a PowerPoint/keynote from the English department at Purdue that goes over questions you should ask yourself before you write, as well as general advice, rules to follow and pitfalls to avoid.
- c. Make sure students have the information but they do not need to copy down word for word.

Part 3: (35 minutes)

- a. Students will now have the opportunity to take out their UA applications and write their own personal statement using the advice given during the workshop.
- b. There will be additional time tomorrow to perfect the statements.

P2HS Closure/Transition:

Note to students: This workshop has shown you what goes into a personal statement. Having completed your own, discuss:

1. Did you find writing a personal statement difficult? Why or why not.
2. Did having advice and rules help you produce a better statement?
3. How could these rules and advice help you in the future?