

PERSONAL STATEMENT

Write a personal statement of 5300-5500 characters aimed at a particular audience, such as graduate school, professional school, or a scholarship organization. You should still keep your statement general enough, so it could be reused for more than one of the same type of addressee.

Your personal statement should have a clearly articulated and lively introduction and conclusion, a linear structure that connects your paragraphs together in a logical order, a coherent focus that develops a particular theme, and concrete details to support the portrait of yourself that you are describing. In general you should *show* the reader rather than *tell* the reader by analyzing specific examples and salient evidence.

If you don't have plans for a graduate or professional degree, the Rhodes Scholarship application might serve as a good template. Here are some samples from successful essays:

<http://www.provost.umich.edu/scholars/students/essays.html>

<https://www.education.psu.edu/files/writingpersonalstatementsonline/file/Rhodes.pdf>

If you do have plans for after your undergraduate B.A. or B.S., you may find these links from career services helpful:

<http://career.ucsd.edu/undergraduates/consider-grad-school/Essays.html>

Remember, however, to think rhetorically. Essays that sound too formulaic might be unappealing to evaluation committees.