



MERRIMACK COLLEGE

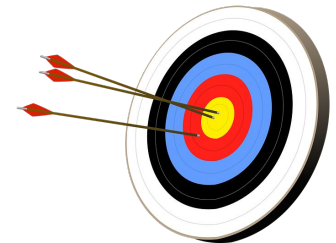
Crafting Personal Statements

Merrimack College Writing Center

Goals

1. Understand the role of the personal statement
2. Consider a standard structure for statements
3. Try some drafting and revising

GOAL SETTING



The Role of the Personal Statement

- vs. Cover Letter (Story)
- vs. Resume (History)
- Establish your Purpose & Vision
- Show substantive reflection
- Set yourself Apart
 - Everyone wants to be a doctor because they want to help people. Ugh.
- It's an investment for both of you



Structure

Absent a specific prompt,

1. Reflect on your past to
2. Show goals for the future.
3. Show why you're a good fit for them, and
4. Show why they're a good fit for you.
5. Summarize your plans for the future.



Activities

- Brainstorm
 - The influences of the past
 - The goals for the future
 - What you bring to a school (your KSAs/qualities)
 - What they offer you (not just name--think research, experience, people)

List/use as much specific detail as possible.



Activities

- Highlight in your draft
 - The influences of the past
 - The goals for the future
 - What you bring to a school (your KSAs/qualities)
 - What they offer you (not just name--think research, experience, people)

Move them around to create the structure from the start. Brainstorm where items are missing.

Bonus Writing Tips

- After 23 words, no one cares.
- If you go over 23 words in a sentence, make sure those before and after are less than 23.
- Adverbs truly and unquestionably add zilch.
- Use the Subject-Verb-Object sentence structure.
- Don't assume they know your jargon.
- Sell, but don't oversell.



Information for Documentation & Citation

Author: Robert T. Koch Jr.

Title: Crafting Personal Statements

Website: Merrimack College Writing Center

Year: 2019

URL: https://www.merrimack.edu/academics/academic-success-center/writing_center/





MERRIMACK COLLEGE