

Tips for Writing a Personal Statement

Expression

1. Write in the active voice.
2. Be yourself and do not use clichés or overused phrases.
3. Use a consistent theme. Do not convey too many contrasting ideas.

Organization

1. Follow directions regarding length. If no limit is given, aim for 2 pages double-spaced.
2. Do not start your essay with biographical information like "I was born in...".
3. Begin with an attention-grabbing lead such as an anecdote, quote, question, vivid description of a scene, etc.
4. Create clear transitions between paragraphs, connecting ideas between each.
5. End your essay with a conclusion that refers to the introduction, relates to the theme, or summarizes your main points.

Excerpts from Personal Statement

My awakening to the wonder of human cultural diversity began with my entry into Army Basic Training. Living in an open barracks for three months with women from every corner of the United States opened my eyes and mind to the amazing variety of cultural groups just within our own country. Since then, I have lived, worked, and traveled in Europe, Africa, and the Middle East. I gained invaluable cross-cultural experience as a member of a multi-national task force, which provided Emergency Medical Service in Kuwait during Operation Desert Storm. In addition to these experiences, Army training has enabled me to develop strong skills in