

Personal Statement / Letter of Intent for Scholarships

Your personal statement is a critical part of your application for scholarships. Most scholarship applications require a Personal Statement. Listed below are some tips that will help you write the best Personal Statement you can. Your Personal Statement is the best way a scholarship committee has to get to know you.

Write about who you are. Write about those aspects of your life that are not apparent from the information provided on your application or high school transcript. Tell about the experiences that don't show up on your transcript or activity sheet: a character-defining moment, a personal challenge you have faced, a hardship you have overcome or the cultural awareness you've developed. Tell why you want to continue your education and what having the opportunity to go to college means to you. Let the scholarship committee know why you need their financial help.

When you write your Personal Statement, you will want to include at least one of the following topics:

TOPICS

1. Describe an experience in your life that demonstrates your character or helped shape it.
2. Describe any personal hardships or barriers you've had to overcome and explain how they have effected your education.
3. In the context of your life experiences, describe your understanding of cultural differences, how this awareness was acquired, and how it has affected you.

In whatever topic you choose, make sure you have clearly stated:

- Your future educational goals
- What your plan is for achieving your educational goals
- If you have had to face unusual hardship (i.e. personal, family, economic)

FORMAT

- Spelling, grammar and punctuation are considered. Don't rely on "spell-check" alone. Grammar mistakes are often time not caught until it's too late. Proofread your essay and ask others to proofread it as well.
- Type your statement. Double space your lines and use only one side of each sheet. One to 1½ pages should be plenty. Watch for the word count limit!
- Print your name, the date and the words "Personal Statement" at the top of each page.