

The Personal Statement

The personal statement allows a scholarship committee to learn more about you as an applicant. It allows you to "sell" your skills, abilities, and attributes.



From the LLCC Foundation website: "The purpose of the personal statement is to give you an opportunity to tell us important things about yourself that are not addressed or apparent in the application."

In 50 words or less, define yourself as a person.....
And as a student...?

What personal characteristics do you possess that would enhance your prospects for academic and professional success?

I have a list if you need help brainstorming.

What are your long-term goals and plans? What do you hope to gain from LLCC and beyond?

What is your biggest disappointment or regret? What did you learn about yourself and life?



What accomplishments are you most proud of? What have you had to dig in and work hard to achieve?

What sets you apart from other students? How are you uniquely you?

How would the scholarship monies benefit you? (Obviously more money is good, but more specifically.)

DOs

- Write in first person.
- Find a focus. This isn't a list or a rambling journal entry. Focus on a specific experience or characteristic and explain its importance in your current life.
- Make your statement memorable. You want the committee to remember you.
- Be specific. Support the things you say about yourself and your experiences with specific examples. Show; don't tell.
- Proofread!! Ask someone else to proofread! Take it to Sarah or The Writing Center!
- Be brief. Make sure you aren't repeating yourself.
- Start your essay early, and take time to write it well. Revise it, as well.

DON'Ts

- Don't use cliches. (Example: "I want to be a nurse in order to help people.")
- Don't make generalizations. (Example: "I just want to help people." Instead: "Education is essential to a strong future, and I'd like to teach high school in order to ensure that strong future for others.")
- Don't mention political or religious affiliation unless necessary.
- Don't make lists of accomplishments. Instead elaborate on them with examples and stories.
- Don't use Scrabble words just to use them.
- **Don't make up stories, exaggerate, or lie!**
- **Don't copy someone else's words or ideas!**