

First Name, Last Name

Noting your name on top will help us match your file. Personal statements must be typed, a minimum of 1 page, 12pt font, and double spaced. Applicants should tell us about themselves, their financial need, and their accomplishments. Here are some tips to remember.

Do...Think of the personal statement as an "intellectual autobiography." The statement should convey to your readers a clear, thoughtful picture or impression of you as a person who has distinct interests, motivations, accomplishments, aims and ideas. Do...Aim to define a central idea, impression or theme you hope to convey. The most memorable personal statements are ones that have a clear theme or purpose that unifies the ideas and information presented. Do...Keep it simple. It's easy to over-write a one-page personal statement. Use the words and language you would naturally use in writing a thoughtful, intelligent letter to a friend or trusted mentor. Do...Use specifics. Help your readers remember you by using specific names, references and illustrations. For example, always say "my internship with the Sierra Club's bald eagle project" rather than "my internship with a renowned environmental organization's project to save an endangered species." Note which sounds more real and natural, and which sounds impersonal and artificial. Do...Welcome the reader into your life and aims. Scholarships are looking for promising people, not high-powered profiles. Write to engage your reader, write in a way that invites him or her to want to meet and get to know you – even if your scholarship process does not involve an interview stage.

It really is simple. We just need for you to tell us about yourself so that we can get to know you a little better. This page is a sample of what your essay should look like. A resume or letter does not constitute a personal statement. A one page statement varies from 300 to 400 words. It is fine to go over in pages, but your essay will be rejected if it is under.