



WRITING YOUR PERSONAL STATEMENT

Long Beach City College

Format

- What is the purpose and content of writing the statement?
(Make sure to check with the institution if it's a general personal statement or responses to specific questions)
- What will my structure be like?
- What is the style and tone of my essay?

Determine Purpose and Content

- Why are you interested in attending the institution? Be sure to provide detailed information (e.g., research emphasis of the institution, student demographics, faculty, location, etc.)
- What is your major and why have you chosen this field of concentration. What factors lead you to this decision?
- What questions may an admissions evaluator have about you after reading your application?
- What details of your life (personal challenges and/or successes) might help the application committee set you apart from other applicants?
- Are there any inconsistencies in your academic record that needs explanation? (e.g., academic probation or disqualification)?
- What did you do differently to change your progress?
- If you were a working student during your college years, what have you learned about yourself (e.g., leadership or managerial skills, crisis management, etc.)?
- Discuss your campus involvement and what skills-set you gained from getting involved on your campus community.
- Do you have any mentors or key individuals that motivated you to pursue higher education?

General advice

- Create a timeline before you begin – make sure to allow yourself sufficient time to write multiple drafts and revisions.
- Get help from your instructors, counselors, career advisers, friends, & family. Allow others to read your personal statement and give you feedback.
- Avoid humor and clichés.
- Check spelling and grammar – **visit the Writing & Reading Center for advice (LAC: L149 or PCC: GG129)**
- Always keep a copy including your revisions
- Don't write anything you can't talk about in an interview.
- Make sure to answer what the institution is asking you. Don't be tempted to submit a general personal statement. Use a word processing program for your drafts, this way you can copy and paste your statement to the section provided in the application.

For additional resources, refer to:

- <http://www.admissions.ucla.edu/prospect/PerStmt.htm>
- http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions/undergrad_adm/apply/how_apply/personal_statement.html#fall08



Transfer Begins Today!

Long Beach City College Transfer Services | LAC A156 | 562.938.4670

PCC GG100 | 562.938.3920 | <http://students.lbcc.edu/>