

Writing a Personal Statement

10th Grade

What admissions readers actually look for, and the openings to avoid.

WORKS

- One specific story, told in detail
- Shows how you think, not just what you did
- Reflects on what changed
- Sounds like you speaking
- Answers the question asked

DOES NOT

- A list of achievements already on the form
- 'I have always been passionate about...'
- A thesaurus on every line
- Quoting a famous person in line one
- Writing what you think they want

THE DIFFERENCE THAT MATTERS

Readers see thousands. The specific detail nobody else could have written is what they remember.

Read it aloud. If it does not sound like you, rewrite it until it does.