



The Application Authority™

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How to Write the Common Application Personal Statement

The Common Application personal statement is important for a few key reasons:

1. Every school that accepts the Common Application will read it
2. It's likely the first essay Admissions Officers will read
3. It's your opportunity to tell YOUR story

Let's first break down the language difference between personal statement and essay. A personal statement is just that, a statement that is personal. You need to write the Common App personal statement as a narrative, whereas you have more flexibility when writing an essay.

The Common Application typically offers 5 topics each year and you only need to answer one of them. The key is to select the prompt that will allow you to tell YOUR story.

Regardless of the topic you select, you need to answer the question the prompt asks. The biggest mistake applicants make is not adequately answering the selected prompt.

Want to Learn More?

For a guide to answering the Common Application prompts, check out our *Book on College Applications*.

Or, work with us 1:1 and we'll guide you through it!