

Structure for Personal Statement – Dr Eves, Canon Slade School



General Instructions

- **47 lines** and **4000 characters** max including spaces!
- **75% academic** and why this is your passion – but NEVER use the word passion, nor ...from a young age...
- **25% should be extra-curricular/work exp.**
- This is just a guide and can be structured how you feel fit – this is your personal statement and chance to sell yourself.
- Brainstorm all of your personal qualities and adjectives you'd use to describe yourself before you start and get a good friend to do the same for you.
- You can then plan your paragraphs to include the info below. This is best as a mind map to keep it adaptable to help you write.

COVID disclaimer

All student and schools have been affected. Do not make excuses for why you could not do something. Think more about what you did in spite of this. Coping with lockdown learning – developing resilience and organisation. Online opportunities you have been involved in such as lectures, MOOCSthis event!

Paragraph 1 Why Applying

- This should include why you're applying for the course in that subject.
- Don't make specific reference to a specific university, although you should look at the course programmes of study for all you are applying for and tailor it accordingly
- Talk about: what triggered your interest for your subject, what has kept you interested?

Paragraph 2 Skills and Experience -Supracurricular

- Talk about the skills you have gained which are linked to the subject or course you want to do (reading, EPQ, coursework, moocs).
- In this paragraph you could also mention any further reading around the subjects you've done to add to your knowledge. This could include quotes from the books you've read, if relevant, and reflect on what you learned about the subject. How did this reading improve your specific skills and competencies or opinions?

Paragraph 3 Roles and Responsibilities

- This paragraph should talk about general roles and responsibilities you have inside and outside of college life.
- These should be both super curricular and extracurricular roles and activities. So what you do to enhance your learning in school and what you do outside of lessons. Then link both of these to the skills needed for your subject.

Skills to include in the above and evidence how you have shown them:

- Independence of learning, resilience, teamwork, communication, empathy, time management (EPQ), Problem Solving, Leadership, Presentation, Working on feedback etc.

Final Paragraph The future / bigger picture and end on a high note

- Now you should mention what you want for the future and what you hope to get out of the university experience.
- Whether that be what job you want after completing your degree, or what skills you hope to gain after finishing university.
- This should only be around two sentences to sum up the rest of your personal statement and leave the reader with a lasting impression of what you're all about.
- It could include your main skills (e.g. 'I am a driven and proactive student with a desire to travel' might be appropriate for a geographer), reasons for wanting to do your subject or what you hope to gain from the course.

Good luck and happy writing

Example Paragraphs:

Listing

"I am applying for ancient history. I have always liked history and took it for GCSE and did very well achieving a grade 8 and so I took it for A level. I enjoy reading about history and have read several books including "SPQR: A History of Ancient Rome" by Mary Beard. In the summer holidays I went to Rome on a tour of the ancient sites. I have also completed a MOOC on the influence of Greek philosophy on modern thought."

Reflective

Immersing myself in the history of the ancient world on a recent visit to Rome highlighted just how vital understanding our history is to understanding ourselves. Standing within sight of the Basilica Julia I was humbled to think that the Roman Empire was administered from this building and others like it. This trip inspired me to pursue my interest in Ancient Rome through reading "SPQR: A History of Ancient Rome" by Mary Beard,

Listing

"I have had two weeks work experience at Bolton Museum and work part time at ALDI. I am completing my Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award in the Lake District and I swim at a national level."

Reflective

"During my two weeks work experience at Bolton Museum I help to install a display of Roman pottery with one of the curators, I learned the importance of communication and working as part of a team. I work part time at ALDI as part of the customer service team, working with other people and customers has taught me the value of team work and how to communicate effectively with others. Completing my Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award shows that I can work with a group of people and communication was key for us to complete our expedition."