

Personal statements – Finding a formula (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= 8hFkMAjW-l&t=7s>)

Students going to British universities need to write a personal statement, a bit like a cover letter. As universities are selective, they have to “sell themselves”. I’m not sure this is the best way to enter university, but writing a personal statement should help you think more clearly about the course you are studying and why exactly.

Watch the video, which is quite difficult. The notes below are to help you understand the gist (=general meaning).

<p>It’s scary. You’re sitting there with a blank sheet of paper.</p> <p>You’ve got to talk about yourself...</p> <p>This is your future, it’s scary...</p> <p>Nobody knows you better than you know yourself.</p> <p>You have the opportunity now to show why you are so much better...</p> <p>Think about what makes you stand out in a good way.</p> <p>I’m Jane Marshall, I spend my life reading lots of personal statements.</p> <p>What makes a good and a bad statement?</p> <p>Everyone is unique... there are lots of ways going about it.</p> <p>Where do you start? Get words down.</p> <p>Why you are so excited about the course...</p> <p>What floats your boat!</p> <p>BE POSITIVE – say how you got excited about the course...</p> <p>An article, a lecture – WOW!</p> <p>Get evidence (for motivation) ... to back up you interest in the course...</p> <p>What skills do you have to cope with the course? Transferable skills like: communication, essay writing, leadership...</p> <p>Throw words at the page until something sticks...</p> <p>If stuck, ask friends and family...</p> <p>What makes you, unique... you might like gaming, gardening, train spotting...</p> <p>What do you do next? ... You’ve got to squash it.</p> <p>Punchy opening paragraph... you really understand what you are getting yourself into...</p> <p>The middle paragraph – the chunky bit – the evidence</p> <p>The end bit, about the personal touch...</p> <p>What do you avoid?</p> <p>Verbal diarrhoea – keep focussed – be relevant...</p> <p>Avoid showing off...</p> <p>Avoid flowery language... plain English</p> <p>Avoid clichés</p> <p>Don’t copy</p> <p>To recap: you know what you are applying for and why. A combination of head and heart.</p> <p>Be authentic, be focussed, be enthusiastic, and ... keep coming back to it</p>	<p>blank sheet of paper= une feuille de papier vierge</p> <p>what makes you stand out=ce qui vous distinguee</p> <p>Get words down=Rédigez des mots</p> <p>What floats your boat?= Qu’est qui vous motive ? Qu’est qui vous botte ?</p> <p>A lecture= une conférence</p> <p>To back up = soutenir</p> <p>To cope with= faire avec, faire face à</p> <p>Transferable skills= compétences que vous pouvez transférer ailleurs, dans un autre emploi</p> <p>If stuck= si vous êtes collé/coincé</p> <p>To squash it= le serrer, le réduire</p> <p>the chunky bit= le gros morceau</p> <p>Verbal diarrhoea=la diarrhée verbale, càd trop parler</p> <p>Showing off= se vanter</p> <p>To recap=pour récapituler</p>
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