PERSONAL STATEMENT
The scholarship committee wants to know you.

Steps to Writing a Personal Statement:

1. A “snap shot” of yourself

PRODUCE A SNAP SHOT PORTRAIT of you as a person, a student, a potential scholarship recipient, and (looking into the future) a former scholarship recipient.

2. A piece of you

MAKE SURE THAT YOUR WRITING IS ORIGINAL. The best way to do this is to share a “piece of you” in the essay. Invite the reader to get to know you, let them feel welcomed.

3. Stop thinking, start writing

JUST START WRITING. You can always go back and edit your work. It’s easier to edit words when they are already written.

4. Find editors (proofreaders)

It is important to GET OTHERS TO EDIT YOUR WORK. They may find errors that eluded you as well as parts that are unclear to someone reading your personal statement for the first time. Ask your editors if your personal statement was interesting and captivating. Ask them for suggestions and take them seriously.

5. Re-Use your personal statements

RE-USE YOUR PERSONAL STATEMENT that you have written for college applications, classes or even other scholarships. Make sure when you recyle your personal statement that it fits the scholarship.

DON’T write a sob story
DON’T use the shot gun approach
DON’T be afraid to get words on paper
DON’T try to be someone else

He greatest results in life are usually attained by simple means and the exercise of ordinary qualities. These may for the most part be summed in these two: common-sense and perseverance. – Owen Feltham
Writing a Personal Statement - Brainstorming Questions

These are sample questions to help you start writing your personal statement. You don't necessarily need to answer all of them, but they are here to give you ideas. You can also add more things about yourself that you might not see addressed here.

Please remember that some scholarship applications may require you to write about a specific topic.

* Be sure to read the instructions for each scholarship carefully and write your essay accordingly.

**Introduction**
- Briefly introduce yourself. Where are you from? What do you currently do?

**Educational Goals**
- What are your reasons for attending college in general?
- What is your major?
- Why did you choose this course of study?
- Do you plan to further your education after LCC?

**Career Goals**
- What will you do with your degree in this field?
- What career path have you chosen?
- What are the things you care about? What matters to you?
- What do you want to contribute to the world?
- How will you give back to the community?
- What in your life reflects this commitment?

**Outside of School**
- What extra-curricular interests, community service, volunteer work, and hobbies do you participate in?
- What lessons or skills have you learned from these experiences?
- What are your academic or other accomplishments?
- What would readers find memorable or unique about you? How will you stand out?

**Financial Need**
- Why do you need a scholarship?
- What is your financial situation?
- Do you work?
- Do you receive support from your family? Do you receive Federal financial aid?
- How will receiving this scholarship make a difference to you?
- Remember to STAY POSITIVE!

**Conclusion**
- How has your education to date made a difference for you?
- What might lie ahead in your future?
- Consider thanking the committee.

Want more tips? 📚
http://www.umflint.edu/finaid/tips.htm
http://www.scholarships.umd.edu/advicestudentswritting.html

Emi Kaneshiro, LCC-Wa’ianae, rev. 08/13
HERE IS AN EXAMPLE OF A PERSONAL STATEMENT:
Example essay from msu.edu study abroad program

Essay #1

For as long as I can remember I’ve known what I wanted to do with my life. Science has always been a passion of mine, and medicine in particular has interested me for some time. Dedicating my life to improving the lives of others is very appealing to me. After Michigan State, I plan on advancing to medical school to become a physician. I believe this program will offer me valuable skills that cannot be taught in the classroom.
Throughout high school and college thus far I have taken a rigorous curriculum and maintained a 4.0 grade point average. During high school I was involved in a physician shadowing program called medical mentorship. In addition, I volunteered at Sparrow Hospital this fall in patient transport. I am very familiar with and comfortable in clinical settings. I am responsible, focused, hardworking and easy to get along with. I participated in a Freshman Study Abroad program this summer and thoroughly enjoyed it. Studying in a foreign country was an experience unlike any I’ve had. The classes were challenging and thought provoking. The city was breathtaking and I met many friends who I still keep in touch with.
Although I plan on practicing medicine in the United States, I believe that studying the differences between the British health care system and that of the United States would benefit me a great deal in the future. It would be a valuable opportunity for me to shadow a British physician, and compare that experience to the clinical exposure I’ve had in the United States. By participating in this program I hope to eventually combine the best of both worlds into my medical education and eventual practice. I plan to learn valuable skills that will one day make me a better doctor.