



PERSONAL
STATEMENT
FOR COMPATITIVE
UNIVERSITIES IN
THE USA

PARTS OF THE COMMON APP

1. PERSONAL DETAILS
2. ESSAY

Basically all universities (except MIT)

3. SUPPLEMENTARY ESSAYS

additional pieces of writing required by many highly-selective universities, and they can be just as revealing and important as your personal statement. The

,fit' for the culture of a particular university you are applying to.

PERFECT FIT

**TOP UNIVERSITIES ARE NOT LOOKING FOR THE TOP STUDENTS.
THEY ARE LOOKING FOR THE STUDENTS THAT BEST FIT IN THEIR
COMMUNITY.**

(Supplemental essays questions can help you see if you “vibe” with the school).

The universities atmosphere, student body, clubs, location are all very important factors you should take into consideration.

GENERAL TIPS ON HOW TO WRITE A PS

College admission officers are looking for these takeaways in your college essay:

1. Who is this person? (personality, traits, not academic achievements)
2. Will this person contribute something of value to our campus?
3. Can this person write?
4. What matters to me and why is that unique?

7 TIPS FOR WRITING A PS

1. It does not matter which CA prompt (out of 7) you choose. You can even choose the last one: write about anything you want.
2. DO NOT. I repeat. **DO NOT** write about your **GRADES** (working hard in a challenging class) or a **CLICHE STORY** (sports injury, challenge, success, refusing to quit).
3. Include your **CORE VALUES**.
4. Strive for **INSIGHT** (answer the “So what?” question **in an unexpected way.**)
5. Make it **personal**.
6. **DO NOT THINK ABOUT WHAT “THEY” WANT TO HEAR ABOUT.** Write about what **YOU** want to say.

LAST TWO TIPS

1. **Reflect** on your life and what matters to you. Core values, important objects, important people, trips, events, activities, skills, anything **you** find valuable.
2. **Use that in crafting your story.**

AND FINALLY **SHOW, DON'T TELL!**

For more general tips READ MORE: <https://www.wes.org/advisor-blog/write-personal-essays-universities/>

<https://www.topuniversities.com/blog/10-tips-writing-personal-statement-university-applications>