

# Creative Response 1: Personal Statement

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eng 3060j / spring 2018 / ohio university / chang

According to M. H. Abrams, autobiography is “a biography written by the subject about himself or herself” in which the text attempts “to set forth character, temperament, and milieu, as well as the subject’s activities and experiences” (22). For this exercise, you will think about a moment in your life—a scene, a single event, action, or experience—to generate a short autobiography in the form of a personal statement. In particular, consider a moment or experience that reveals something about your relationship to reading and writing, to literature (like science fiction), or to learning in general. You could write about your favorite story or novel, you could write about an important class or lesson, you could write about overcoming a learning disability or balancing school and work. Whatever you chose, make it specific, simple, and memorable. A personal statement, like the one you had to write to get into university, argues *something*: get to know me, this is what I value, I am a good candidate because, I have something to contribute, and so on. Though your personal statement need not come out and say these things, it should reveal to the reader your personality, your drives, your style, your desires, and your abilities. It reveals something about **who you are, what is important to you, and what is important about the story you are telling**. The best personal statements give a lot of bang for the buck: short, specifically detailed, full of voice, appropriate in tone, answer the prompt, avoids cliché, and communicates an idea. You have up to 500 words (only) to develop setting, personality, plot, and purpose.

## Guidelines and Due Dates

**Format:** Semi-formal paper, 1-2 pages, up to 500 words, typed, no title page, 1” margins, doubled-spaced body, proper name block & title, single-sided print

**Due:** Monday, January 22, via Blackboard, by the start of class

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