

Writing Challenge 1.0: Personal Statement

essay writing / summer stretch 2016 / university of washington / chang

For this writing challenge, you will write a personal statement answering: Why is reading and writing important (to you)? Or what is your best learning experience and what does it tell us about you? Or what object, book, or character best represents you? Like a literacy narrative, your statement should explore the ways in which your experiences with reading, writing, and learning—both your positive experiences and difficulties—have shaped you, your goals, and your experiences in and outside of school. The readings we have done this week—especially Alexie and Tan—and the brainstorming exercise should be springboards for thinking about your own experiences with your education.

However, you must do more than just tell a story. You must do more than describe your feelings. A personal statement, like the one you would write to get into university, argues *something*: get to know me, this is who I am, 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. 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.

Guidelines and Due Dates

Format: 3-4 pages, typed, no title page, double-spaced, standard paragraphing, proper heading, page numbers, neatly stapled & printed

Draft: Thursday, June 30, at the start of class

Due: Tuesday, July 5, at the start of class

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