



WRITING THE PERSONAL STATEMENT

Different opportunities have different essay requirements. Generally, personal statements have similar aspects, but make sure to thoroughly review the essay prompt to make sure you answer the question at hand or address the necessary components.

Key components of a personal statement:

- Your relevant story (who you are)
- Qualifications
 - Skills, experiences, attributes
- Future
 - Academic and/or professional aspiration
- Why should the foundation/agency invest in you?

Organizing your statement:

- Consider categories to tell your story:
 - Formative Experiences
 - Transformative Moments
 - Performative (what will you do with this)
- Past, present, future
 - Where did I come from? (formative experiences, transformative moments)
 - Where am I now? (current work/experiences, transformative moments)
 - Where am I going? (where will you go, what will you do?)

THINGS TO CONSIDER

Fit:

- Are you a good fit for this opportunity?
- Qualifications: skills, experiences, and attributes in sync with eligibility criteria?
- Suitability: will it benefit you?
- Make sure your possible future aligns with the goals of the scholarship program.

Intellectual Content:

- These are academic fellowships. The statements should have some heft to them.
- Review and re-review the prompt to see how your academic work should be related within the statement.
- Try not to write a statement that is too jargon-filled.
- Ask your advisor to sign off on any project statement – that way they are more informed for developing their own letters of recommendation.

Other Tips:

- Peer review might be helpful on essays
- Authenticity is important
- Read it out loud – find the rhythm of the piece
- What is the most astonishing thing about you? Talk about it and write it down. Is it appropriate for this opportunity?