

PERSONAL STATEMENT

TECHNICAL AND BUSINESS WRITING

SEF22 SECTION A&B

AHMAD ZIA

3 things they are looking for...

- What's your motivation for applying?
- What evidence you have for this motivation?
- Do you know what you are getting yourself in for?

Be professional

- I have wanted to become a doctor for as long as I can remember. I recall visiting my GP as a child and being transfixed by their power.
- How does aspirin relieve pain? My interest in medical sciences begin as a child with the sore knee! Recently I have research analgesia to uncover the magic of acetylsalicylic acid.

Show, Don't Tell

- Studying law will give me superpowers! I am endlessly fascinated by how legal disputes arise, are taken through court and ultimately settled. I could read court cases happily on Christmas Day!
- I am applying to study law because I am fascinated by how legal professional trade in language. The 2015 UKSC case of Hotak versus LB Southwark turned on the interpretation of 'vulnerable' which Parliament had left deliberately vague.

Do you know what degree entails?

- Learning to speak Arabic will allow me to communicate with people living throughout North Africa and the Middle East.
- Studying Arabic will allow me to see the world differently, through an ancient culture and rich literary heritage. I am particularly keen to study Islamic architecture

Getting personal in personal statement

SPEAK FOR YOURSELF

- If all the economists were laid end to end, they would not reach a conclusion." I entirely agree with this.
- If all the economists were laid end to end, they would not reach a conclusion." I am not troubled by this. Economics, like any science, must not pretend to unearth absolute truth.

Speak like yourself

- The art of medicine consists of amusing the patient while nature cures the disease." Voltaire unalterably concur with this vaulting sentiment. Advances in medical sciences have merely extended our capacity to amuse.
- The art of medicine consists of amusing the patient while nature cures the disease." Voltaire. This is broadly true, but I would not describe the use of a bedside manner as art, there is plenty of science to it.

Be self-reflective

- EH Carr's "What is History?" opened my eyes to the relativism of historical "facts". I will never read a history book the same again.
- EH Carr's "What is History?" stresses the relativism of historical "fact". This is an important contribution, but would render history little more than unscientific fiction. I would argue that history, like any science, seeks facts but only has partial access to them.

Structure: Hook the reader

- Beginning Middle End
- Be clear
- Use bookending
- Develop your case for admission
- Be sure to answer all three questions by the end.

Structure: Logical Progression

Tell a story from beginning to the end

Climbing the mountain technique

- Exploration
- Substance: What have you studied?
- Methods: How have you studied:
- Findings: What did you gain?
- Other interests

Structure: What will be read?

- Sympathize with your readers
- Help them extract the useful data
- Be realistic

Extra curriculum

- Some universities don't care
- Don't boast or place your academics after co-curricular
- I am Head Giri. I have played hockey at a county level. I have just obtained my Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award. I am Grade 5 in Flute and Grade 7 in Piano.

Extra curriculum

- Do
- It was actually whilst obtaining my Duke of Edinburgh award that I first experienced sustained geological fieldwork. It was so affirming to hunt for evidence of the world's very formation.

Important

- Keep sentences short
- Don't misuse semi-colons
- Use will/shall carefully
- Be careful with syntax and subordinate clause
- Be efficient. Avoid overusing adjectives and adverbs

Conclusion

- Make sure the personal statement is personal!
- Get some feedback but know when to stop.
- Evidence, evidence, evidence! Don't TELL, SHOW!