

Common App Personal Statement Structure

A printable outline template + proof/clarity checklist.

Five-part structure outline

Section	Notes
1) Hook	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
2) Context	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
3) Choice	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
4) Consequence	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
5) Reflection + forward motion	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

Quick proof/clarity check

- ☐ Hook drops into a real moment (not philosophy).
- ☐ Choice/decision point is clear.
- ☐ At least two actions + outcomes are specific.
- ☐ Reflection is specific (what I do differently now).
- ☐ Ending points forward (contribution + forward motion).

Editing cadence (5 passes)

1) Structure → 2) Clarity → 3) Proof → 4) Voice → 5) Trim