

Common App Personal Statement Structure

A printable outline template + proof/clarity checklist.

Five-part structure outline

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

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