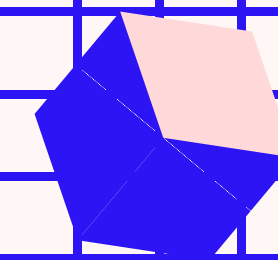
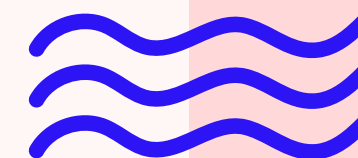
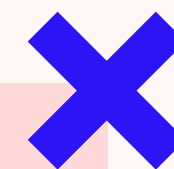


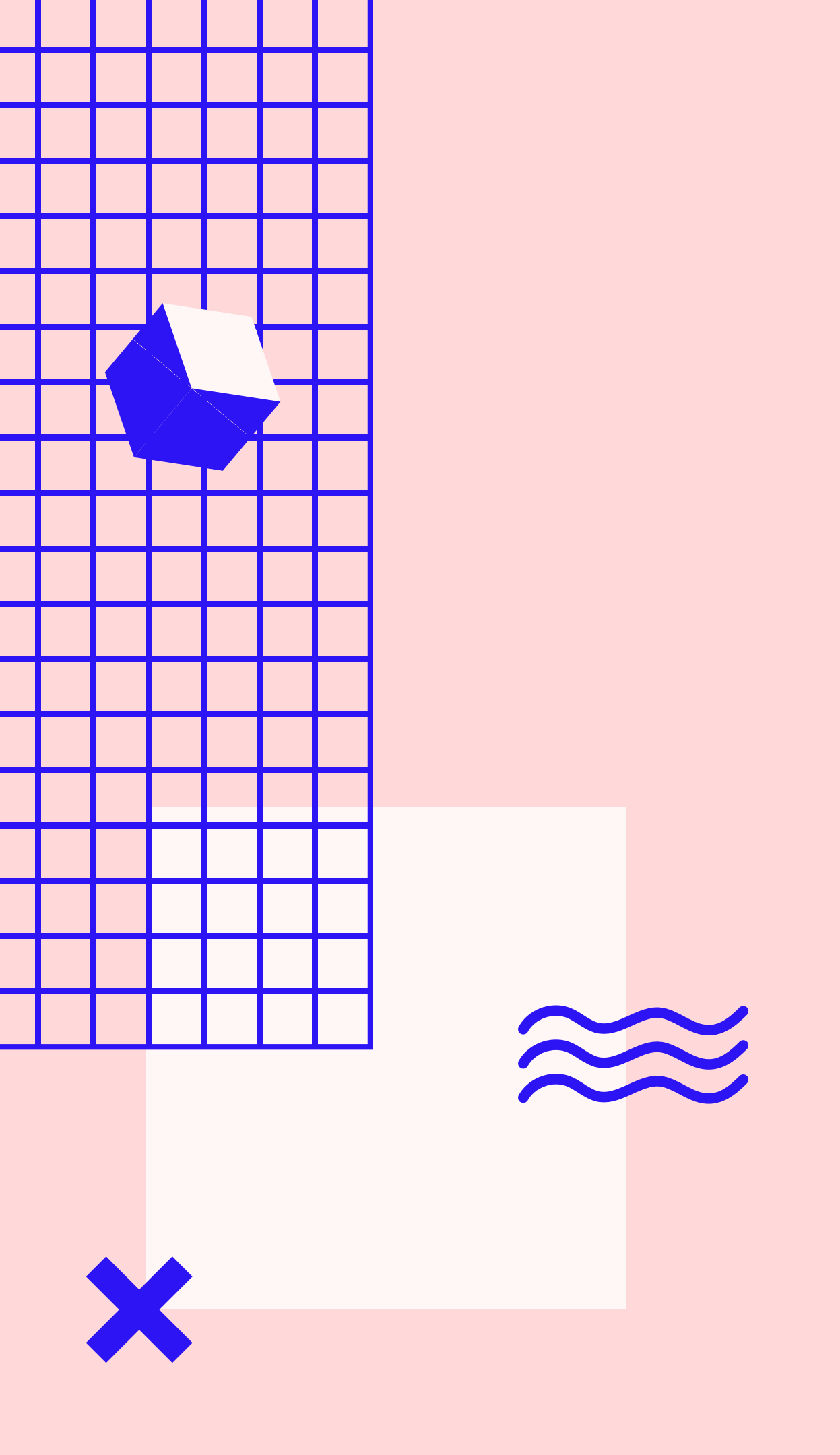
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GEORGE JOHN JORDAN THOMAS
AQUINAS HAYWARD, OPTIMIST

Writing Your Personal Statement



Today's Guide




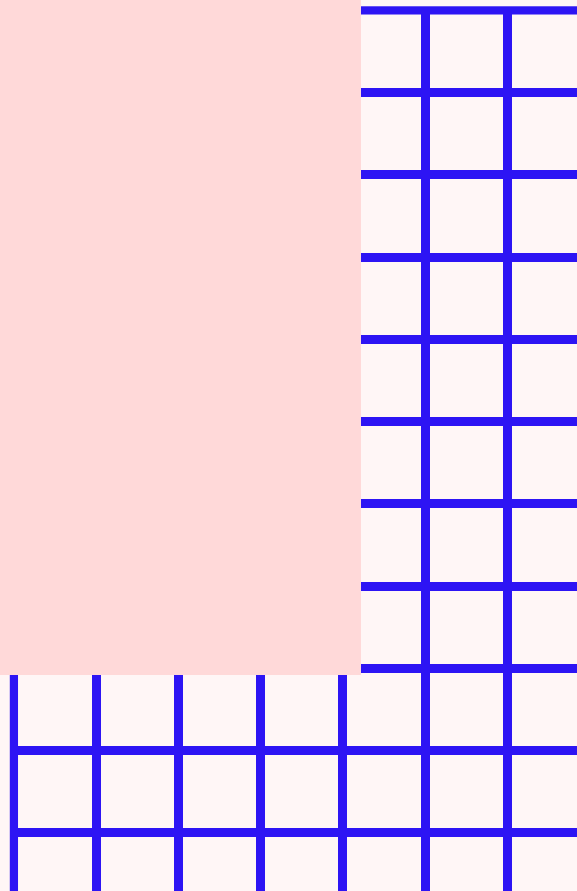
1. A few pointers
2. Your questions



1. Take a walk, and think.

If you could not fail...


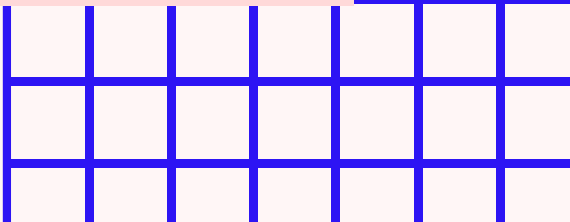
If you were the star of your own movie...

- What would you do?
 - Who would you help?
 - What would you stand for?
- 
- 



2. How will the school help you reach those goals?


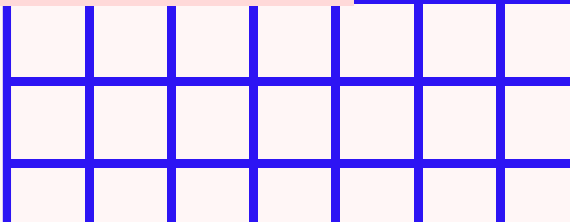
Remember:

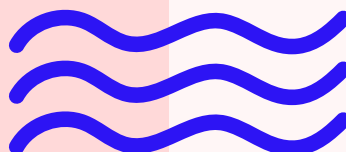
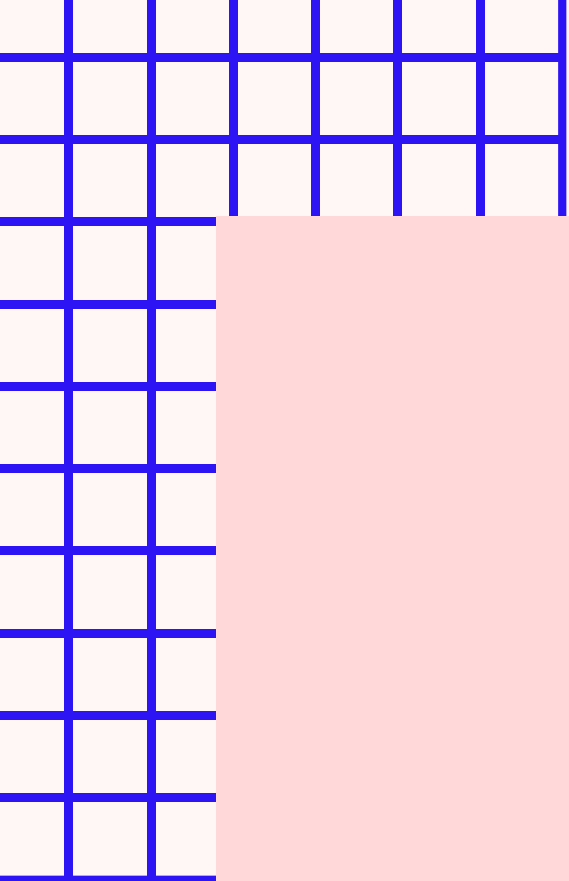
- You will reach your goal regardless of whether the school admits you.
 - Think of the school as investing in the startup of you.
 - What will the school miss out on if they don't choose you?
- 
- 



3. Answer their prompt in a way that includes your points.


Remember:

- 
- The prompt is a way for you to tell your story.
 - Work your story into whatever you have to answer.
- 



4. Get a draft on paper, even if you don't think it's good yet.

Remember:

- The earlier you draft/revise it, the better.
 - It's a big deal just to get your thoughts on a page, so don't worry about perfection.
- 
- 

5. Be specific.


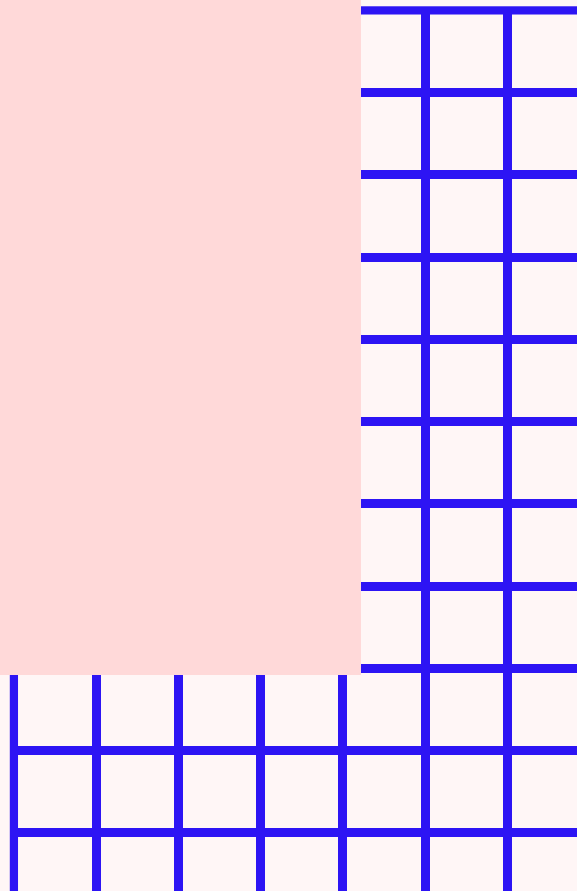
Remember:

- Know professors and classes that you might like.
- Show the school that you are really interested in THEM.
- Use this only when you are applying to a specific school.



6. Turn weaknesses into strengths.

Remember:

- Failures teach us and make us human; if you've learned something from a mistake, include it.
- 
- 



7. First choice.


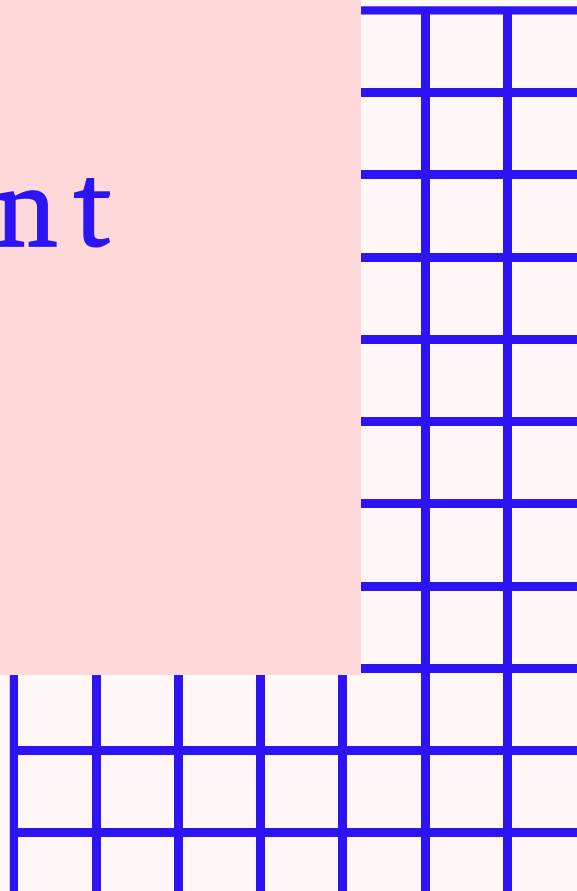
Remember:

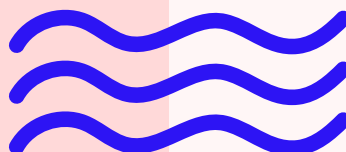
- If the school is your first choice, say so.
 - Use this only when you are applying to a specific school.
- 
- 



8. Don't worry about 'what they want to hear.'


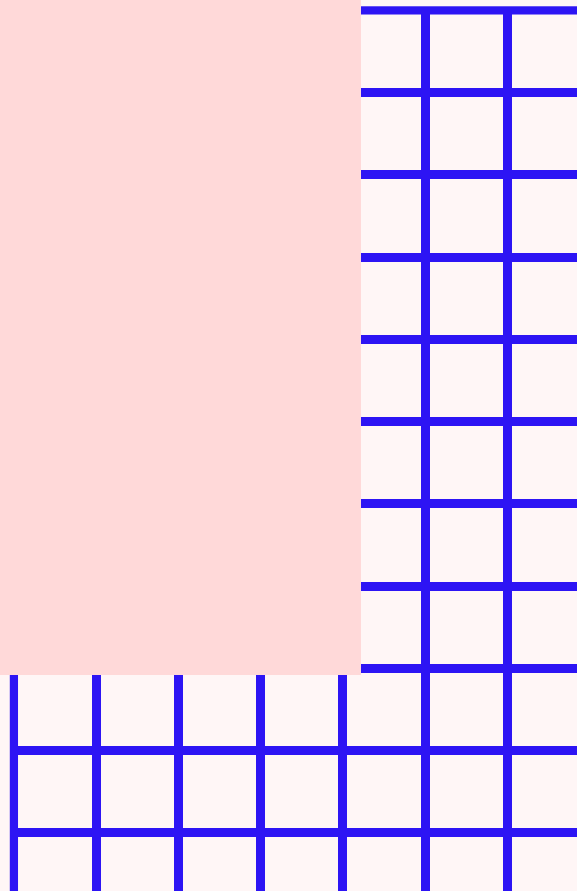
Remember:

- Be yourself.
 - If you try to fit into what you think 'they want to hear,' it will be less authentic.
- 
- 



9. Follow your instincts.

Remember:

- If you disagree with anything in this presentation, overrule it and follow your instincts.
- 
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Questions & Thank You

