**Personal Statement Assignment**

**Final Due:** Friday**, October 13th**  /Product Grade (40%)

**Drafts Due:** Friday, **September 29th** / Written Grade (20%)

**Points Allotted:** 25 points (15/25 passing --> 20/25 80%)

**TASK: Write a personal statement that is**

**between 800-1000 words.**

\*All writing in this course & university will be in MLA format:

* Size 12
* Standard font (Calibri / Times New Roman)
* Double Spaced
* Headed with Name, Teacher, Class, Due Date/Date handed in

A "Personal Statement" - introduce yourself to a third party for a specific purpose (enrolling in a university, applying for a scholarship, seeking an internship opportunity, or applying for a job)

 

1. Make a list of the things you want the reader to know—and remember--about you. Try to be as concrete as possible. Ask yourself:

* What do I care about? Why?
* What questions motivate me?
* Where have my passions led me?
* What experiences have most shaped me?
* What is my most significant achievement?
* What do I hope to do in the future (education, career, etc.)?
1. Now try to figure out your story: when you look at the list you have generated, is there a unifying theme? Is there a way of describing your path so far—regardless of whether it has been straight or winding—to show why applying for this scholarship is the logical next step?
2. Start writing, allowing yourself plenty of time to **rewrite.** Your personal statement will probably go through more drafts than you can count. You may want to show it to a few close friends or mentors and ask for feedback. Writing your personal statement is an opportunity for reflection: you will likely learn about yourself during the **writing process.**

4. As you read what you have written, ask yourself the following questions:

* Is my writing clear and succinct? Am I avoiding unnecessary adverbs and adjectives, repetitive sentence construction, and the passive voice?
* Am I using concrete examples rather than vague generalities?
* Will the reader be confused at any point or left with unanswered questions?
* Am I writing for the educated reader who is not an expert in my particular field? (In most instances, this will be the right audience to have in mind.)
* Is my statement interesting? Will it hold the reader’s attention?
* Most importantly, is this personal statement an honest reflection of who I am?