

Personal Statement Checklist

<i>Make Sure Your Personal Statement Includes:</i>	Yes	Somewhat	No
Strong opening sentence			
A topic sentence for each paragraph			
Your year of study and current major			
Specific impressive academic credentials			
Concrete examples that support your claims/assertions			
What you want to study in graduate school and why			
The nature and significance of experiences you have had in your field			
Why you will be beneficial for the program			
What research you have completed and the skills you gained from your experience (e.g., lab techniques, networking, problem solving, critical thinking)			
Other academic experiences that are significant (e.g., lab, course work)			
Major influences in academic experience			
A statement demonstrating drive or perseverance			
Post-graduate career goals			
What led up to/influenced your career choice			
How this program will help you achieve your goals			
Personal attributes that set you apart from other applicants			
A particular track, research project, or professor with whom you would like to work? If yes, have you made a case for a good match with your background?			

Does the statement address the question (s) being asked			
Concluding statement or paragraph			
Well-organized			
Sentences that rely on active verbs			
Have you read this out loud			
Has someone else read it			
Did you get help from the Writing Center			