

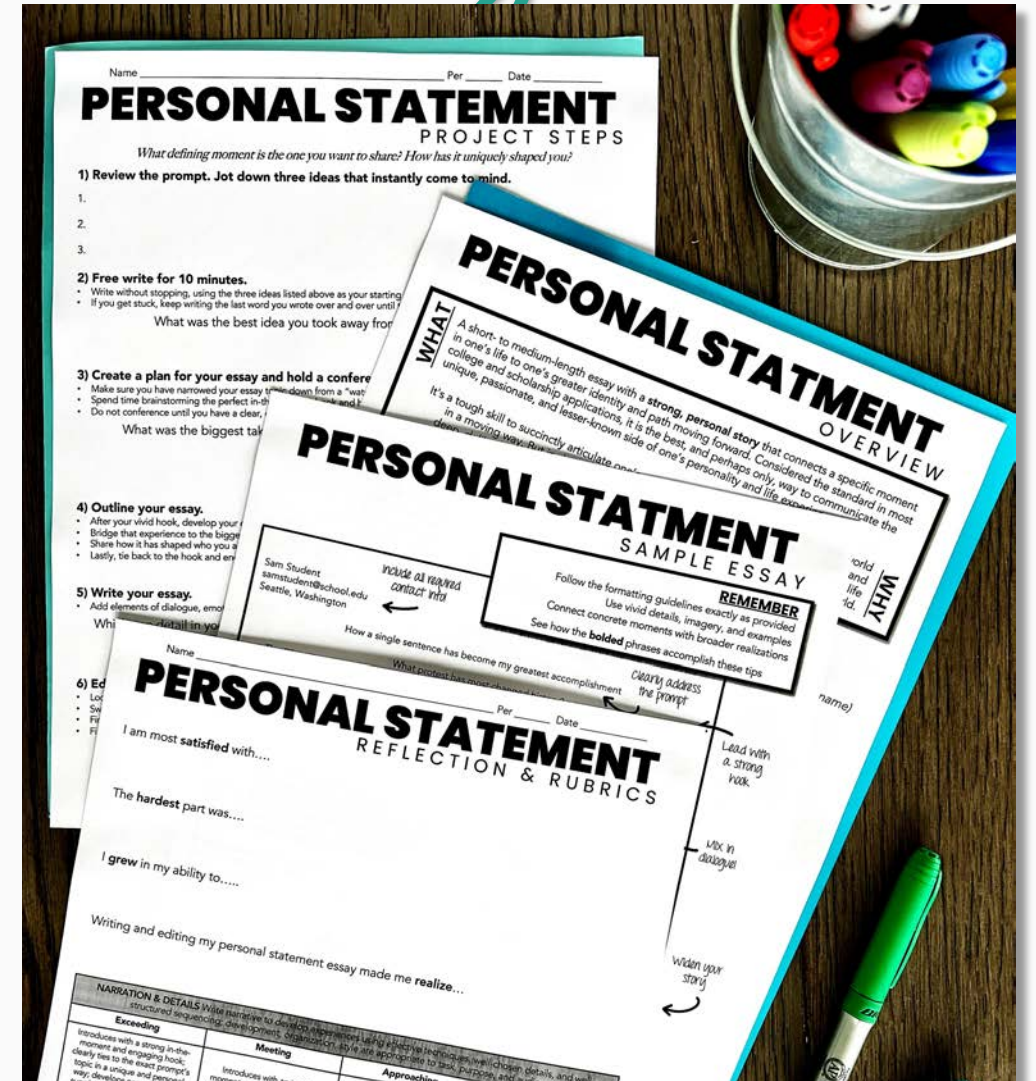
PERSONAL STATEMENT

essay kit

Guide your students in crafting a power and personal essay using this **complete step-by-step** kit.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Step-By-Step Project Sheet
- 7 Options for Brainstorming Sheets
- Essay Planning & Outline Sheet
- Sample Essay & Edit Checklist
- Reflections & Rubrics Sheet
- Links to Dozens of How-To Videos
- BOTH PRINT & PAPERLESS INCLUDED**



SUPPORT ALL *students*

Included forms and how-to sheets *highly scaffold the writing process* from start to finish.

SUPPORTS INCLUDED

Chunked into “check-off-able” **micro steps** from start to finish

How-to videos to address all sorts of specific issues, from brainstorming to editing

Detailed **how-to sheets** and a **sample essay** to illustrate exactly what to do

PERSONAL STATEMENT OVERVIEW

WHAT A short- to medium-length essay with a **strong, personal story** that connects a specific moment in one's life to one's greater identity and path moving forward. Considered the standard in most college and scholarship applications, a personal statement is a unique, passionate, and less formal piece of writing.

It's a tough skill to succinctly convey in a moving way. But in deep, deliberate personal narratives, students can shine.

PERSONAL STATEMENT SAMPLE ESSAY

REMEMBER

- Follow the formatting guidelines exactly as provided
- Use vivid details, imagery, and examples
- Connect concrete moments with broader realizations

See how the **bolded** phrases accomplish these tips

include all required contact info

Sam Student
samstudent@school.edu
Seattle, Washington

How a single sentence has become my greatest accomplishment

What protest has most changed history?
The Silent Sentinels, whose protest finally granted half our citizens the right to vote, for patriotically quoting the President and abiding by their gender-expected silence in a deafening and decorum-shattering roar that brought centuries-old oppression to an end in 18 months.

Lead with a strong hook

I have an odd hobby. One that started years ago in my childhood when my mom suggested I write to the local television station when they changed the late afternoon show lineup. They had been showing reruns of my favorite show and I watched them every day. Then, one day it was just replaced. Gone. While some parents might tell their kids to just watch or, even better, suggest playing outside instead, my mom said, "Pumpkin, why don't you send them a letter?"

Mix in dialogue

Clearly address the prompt

Lead with a strong hook

Lead with a strong hook

Mix in dialogue

Widen your story

PERSONAL STATEMENT OUTLINE

PERSONAL STATEMENT FREE WRITE

HOW HAVE YOU SHINED?

What has been your proudest accomplishment? What does it mean to you?
How has it shaped you?
Put your pen or pencil on this page, start writing, and don't stop for 10 minutes. Write down everything that comes to mind, then keep writing. Write sentences, write lists, write ideas, write memories. Just write.

Personal Statement Project Steps

- 1) Brainstorm ideas. Think about a moment that is the one you want to share? How has it uniquely shaped you?
Prompt: Jot down three ideas that instantly come to mind.
TYPE HERE
- 2) Write for ten minutes.
Write a rough draft. Using the three ideas listed above as your starting point.
If you get stuck, keep writing the best word you can use until the next idea comes to you. Don't stop writing.
What was the best idea you took away from your 10-minute free write?
TYPE HERE
- 3) Create a plan for your essay and hold a conference.
Make sure you have narrowed your essay topic down from a "holistic" to a "best".
Before the conference, write the prompt in the notebook form and have that "best" idea shared with you.
Do not conference until you have a clear, complete, personal essay plan.
What was your biggest takeaway from the conference that will help you write your essay?
TYPE HERE
- 4) Outline your essay.
After your first draft, write your final version of the personal statement in the prompt.

FREQUENTLY ASKED *questions*

What grades is this best for?

It was designed for **high school students, especially for the college and scholarship application process.** However, if your middle school students are strong writers and you are looking for a personal narrative essay project, this could work. Be sure to examine the preview and product description closely to decide if this resource is a good fit for your students.

Is this editable?

The planning, outlining, and rubric forms are available in print PDF and an editable Google Doc file that can be customized to meet your student's needs. The how-to reference sheets are available in print PDF and non-editable Google Slides.

Can I use this in a homeschooling setting?

Definitely! Step-by-step forms for brainstorming, outlining, and editing forms and **detailed how-to sheets** with a sample essay and skill sheets guide you and your student(s) through this complete writing process for this writing format and skills.

What standards does this support?

Several! This kit supports writing, research, and social studies standards from various states, including:

- Develop writing by planning, revising, and editing
- Introduce, develop, and support a claim with relevant evidence
- Follow proper grammar and punctuation conventions; create a works cited
- Produce clear and coherent writing that is appropriate to the task, purpose, and audience