

The Personal Statement

Learning Targets -

After today, the SENIORS will be able to:

1. Understand the UC and Common App requirements for the personal statement portion of their college application.
2. Evaluate standout examples of personal statements
3. Practice "showing" rather than "telling"
4. Brainstorm ideas and begin writing a first draft of their own personal statement
5. Conference with teachers and begin the drafting process

UC Personal Insight Questions

Common Application Essay Prompts

10 Great Opening
Lines from
Stanford
Admissions Essays

Personal Statement Examples

1. Spend ten minutes reading through the sample essays and pick one or two that really stand out to you. Feel free to have both positive and negative reactions.
2. In groups share:
 - a. Which essay(s) stood out and why?
 - b. Have a conversation about which essays are most effective and why?
3. Be prepared to share your findings with the whole group

Show Not Tell: a writing technique which emphasizes sensory details to create a vivid scene in the reader's mind.

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sights (eyes), sounds (ears), smells (nose),
tastes (mouth), and touches/sensations
(hands/skin)

The pizza tasted good.

1. The child's room was a mess.
2. The boy found the video game hard to play.
3. The new student felt alone.
4. The two teams were well matched.
5. The girl enjoyed hiking.

1. A chill ran up the boy's spine.
2. Karen was as strong as an ox.
3. Paula was green with envy.
4. It was raining cats and dogs.
5. Dominick's remark hit the nail on the head.

1. The meeting at the airport was a happy one.
2. The two girls disagreed about what they wanted to do on Saturday.
3. My dad and his best friend came up with a wild scheme.
4. Sharon was unhappy because Bob had forgotten her birthday.
5. The mother was disappointed in her daughter's report card.