NSRCF: GUIDELINES & TIPS: WRITING YOUR PERSONAL STATEMENT

The purpose of the personal statement is to reflect and focus on “your” story, experiences, thoughts & goals while sharing your family, community history & influences.

Here are a couple of tips in writing your personal statement:

• Read carefully the personal statement questions and highlight key points you want to address.
• Use the “optional worksheet” template to list key points and write out details of the key points in relation to you. This process can help you reflect and develop what you want to say in your statement. If you have your own writing process go with what works best for you.
• Write freely (free form) your ideas, thoughts and experiences without editing for the first draft. Look over and circle the ideas/experiences you feel most connected with and tells your story. Then take those circled ideas/experiences and write about them in more detail to include in your personal statement.
• Plan on writing & revising a couple of drafts before a final draft to submit. Recommend one to two pages at the most. Allow enough time to write & re-write and ENJOY the process.
• Ask your teacher, counselor, mentors, club adviser, older siblings or trusted friends to review and provide feedback on your drafts and making sure it is your own words.

Notes:

• Remember, this is not a graded assignment. Most important is that it tells your story, reflects your experiences and goals. Your voice matters!
• Save your final personal statement in an online folder as you can use and adapt for other scholarship, college, internship applications.
• Thank you for sharing your story!

NSRCF Personal Statement Questions:

A. Tell us about “yourself” and why a college education is important to achieve your personal and career goals.
B. Describe any obstacles or challenges you have experienced in getting your education and how you overcame them and/or what you learned from the experience. (Answer, if applicable)
C. What contributions do you see yourself making to your cultural/ethnic community in the future?

“OPTIONAL” PERSONAL STATEMENT WORKSHEET TEMPLATE

• Read carefully the personal statement questions and highlight key points you want to address.
• List key points and write out details for each key point in relation to you. This process can help you reflect and develop what you want to say in your statement. If you have your own writing process go with what works best for you. (Examples of Key Points are listed for reference; you can list your own key points and follow-up questions)
### A1) Tell us about “yourself” and why a college education is important to achieve your personal and career goals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Points</th>
<th>Details &amp; Impact (Personal/Community/Emotional)</th>
<th>Response &amp; Thoughts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>♦ Identities</td>
<td>♦ Ethnic, Cultural &amp; Gender Identities: - Think about your cultural, ethnic &amp; gender identities – what does that mean to you.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♦ Family</td>
<td>♦ Think about your family (immigration history, single parent, extended family, siblings) &amp; your upbringing and how it shaped who you are today</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♦ Values</td>
<td>♦ Think about your cultural, family &amp; societal values &amp; what you hold onto and why.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♦ Personality</td>
<td>♦ How would you describe yourself: quiet, outgoing, thinker, feeler, dreamer, leader, supporter, visionary, etc.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Key Points</td>
<td>Details &amp; Impact (Personal/Community/Emotional)</td>
<td>Response &amp; Thoughts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| ♦ Education | ♦ If you are a first generation college student, think about what this means to you.  
- What does it mean to go to college?  
- What are your passion & interests?  
- What are your academic & career goals? |                    |
| ♦ Motivation | ♦ What & who motivates you in life and in school?  
- Has there been a turning point in your life when you realized you can do it and you are deserving of an education & happiness? |                    |
B) Describe any obstacles or challenges you have experienced in getting your education and how you overcame them and/or what you have learned from the experience.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Points</th>
<th>Details &amp; Impact (Personal/Community/Emotional)</th>
<th>Response &amp; Thoughts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| ♦ Obstacles, Challenges or Barriers. | ♦ Think about any obstacles, challenges or barriers you experienced growing up.  
- How did you overcome or deal with the situation?  
- What did you learn about yourself through this hardship and process?  
- What would you tell yourself now, looking back? | |
| ♦ Fears & Hopes | ♦ What are your fears of going to college?  
- What are your hopes of going to college? | |
## C) What contributions do you see yourself making to your cultural/ethnic community in the future?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Points</th>
<th>Details &amp; Impact (Personal/Community/Emotional)</th>
<th>Response &amp; Thoughts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>♦ Vision – What is your vision for your community?</td>
<td>♦ What issues or needs do you see in your community or among your generation or future generations that you want to address. Why is this important to you?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♦ Personal, Community &amp; School Leadership</td>
<td>♦ Leadership comes in many forms: i.e. * Personal (Care taking of your family, siblings, working to help family or other responsibilities) * Community (Volunteering, Involved w/community, church, service organization, etc.) * School (Any school clubs, groups, social or academic or interest topic groups, etc.) - How do you define leadership? ♦ What did you learn about yourself, and how can these qualities or characteristics contribute to your role as a leader in the future.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Next Steps – Ready to draft your personal statement.
- Review your response & thoughts notes from the worksheet, circle the key ideas/experiences you feel most connected with and tells your story. Only include what you feel is important to you.
- Take the circled ideas/experiences and write about them in more detail to include in your one to two-page personal statement.
- Save final copy in an online folder to share with the person you ask to write your recommendation letter and for future personal statements.