

3. Personal Statements

*Redrafting & Rewriting



Personal Statements

* Aim of the Session

1. To revisit the content of a personal statement
2. To ensure we make the best use of the limited number of characters available
3. To look at some tips for improving our written work



Making every character matter

- You have **limited space** when writing your personal statement and you should have a lot to write!
- You can write up to **4,000 characters of text** that shows you'd make a great student – it may take a few **redrafts** until you're happy with it.
- Cutting out those **extra words** is important and does take thought.
- Don't forget **others can check it for you** – don't be afraid to ask.



Example #1

- **Talking about studying A levels in Maths & Physics**
- **How can we cut this down so it reads (and sounds) better?**



The study of mathematical sciences has managed to intrigue me for very many years. I made the decision to study A levels in both Maths and Physics and this stemmed from a really high interest level and my strong aptitude in both subject areas...

244 characters + spaces



The study of mathematical sciences has intrigued me for many years. The decision to study A levels in both Maths and Physics stemmed from high interest and strong aptitude in both subject areas...

180 characters + spaces



Example #2

- **Talking about wanting to continue studying sport science and having a passion for PE**
- **How can we cut this down so it reads (and sounds) better?**



Throughout all of my life, I have always very much enjoyed engaging in Physical Education and Sport and would like to pursue in the future my career in the field of sports science. All through my life, I have always had a keen interest in everything to do with sport and have felt very passionately about it when it comes to the practical and theoretical work that we have studied concerning Physical Education...

413 characters + spaces



Throughout my life, I have always enjoyed engaging in Physical Education and would like to pursue my career in the field of sports science. I have always had a keen interest in the practical and theoretical work concerning Physical Education...

241 characters + spaces



Example #3

- **Talking about a passion for the bright lights and drama**
- **How can we cut this down so it reads (and sounds) better?**



The stage has always been a very intoxicating mixture to me, with the bright lights, seeing the new characters and with an audience to amaze. All these parts of drama even when I was a little a little girl I found extremely exciting. I would go to theatre's and see play's and just dream of being a big and special part of that someday, Drama inspired me always to succeed in my school and college education and has been an enormous passion of mine for many years...

466 characters + spaces



The stage is an intriguing mixture to me: bright lights, characters and an audience to amaze. Even as a child I found these exciting. I visited theatres to see plays, dreaming of being part of that someday. Drama inspired me to succeed in my education and has been a passion of mine for many years...

303 characters + spaces



Conclusion

- You have **4000 characters** – letters & spaces – you have an awful lot of info to include
- Try to **use up all your characters** – it is all evidence to support your application
- Re-read, re-write – and **get someone else to check your statement** – we all get ‘word-blindness’ to mistakes in our own written work
- Not going to Uni? – the **same skills are needed** in other situations – writing a supporting statement to a **job application** for example



Group activity sheets

- * Small groups of 2-3
- * Print pages 15-17
- * Can do x 7 copies for a copy for each student.

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244 characters + spaces

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