



MY COLLEGE PORTFOLIO



➤ WHAT IS A COLLEGE PORTFOLIO?

A college portfolio is a folder or binder where you place all the information you will need in applying for college or scholarships.

➤ WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

All your accomplishments and records will be in one folder which will help you access the information faster. This will give you more time to adjust any information for scholarship or award applications.

➤ WHAT SHOULD I USE TO MAKE THIS PORTFOLIO?

Use a folder or series of folders (1 for each college) or a binder with dividers.

➤ WHAT DO I PUT IN MY COLLEGE PORTFOLIO?

- Unofficial high school transcript
- Copies of all ACT/SAT scores
- List of all community service activities
- School / Community involvement including clubs and organization
- Lists of leadership positions and descriptions of duties
- Awards, certificates, or outstanding accomplishments and time of involvement
- Any work experience
- Resume'
- Personal Statements or Essays completed for specific college applications



PERSONAL STATEMENTS

➤ WHAT IS A PERSONAL STATEMENT?

- A personal statement is a short story you write about yourself, your life experiences, and how these experiences have inspired you to apply for what you are currently applying for. You are the main character!
- Different colleges and scholarships will request for you to submit a personal statement. They want to know more about you.

➤ WHY IS A PERSONAL STATEMENT IMPORTANT?

- You can use this as an opportunity to express who you are and explain any questions they may have about your academic activities or experiences. Many times your personal statement will be the determining factor in receiving a scholarship or even admissions particularly into specialized programs of study.

➤ CAN I SUBMIT THE SAME PERSONAL STATEMENT TO DIFFERENT SCHOLARSHIPS OR COLLEGES?

- No. It is important that you read all the guidelines and requirements for each personal statement.
- Each scholarship and college should ask you different questions and have different requirements in regards to length and page guidelines.
- You can try to have one personal statement saved and can continuously tailor it to fit the requirements of different scholarships and colleges.

➤ CAN PEOPLE HELP ME WRITE MY PERSONAL STATEMENT?

- Yes. You can ask your parents/family, teachers, counselor, advisor, mentor, and / or friends to read over your personal statement and give you feedback on how to improve your personal statement to make it as impactful as possible.

HOW TO WRITE PERSONAL STATEMENTS

- **KNOW YOUR AUDIENCE** ... Know what scholarship you are completing and who it is for. Address the questions that are being asked. Revise each personal statement for the specific scholarship / college.
- **MAKE IT PERSONAL** ... Write about things that have impacted you. Your personal statement cannot be your resume' listings. Move away from "I" statements as it will seem as though you are bragging. The statement is about what you have to say and how you value your experiences.
- **SHOW ME, DON'T TELL ME** ... Add detail to your story, it will bring in the reader. Pick a few elements and stories that you think are essential in answering the question being asked. Telling fewer stories will help the reader focus on the whole picture.
- **MAKE EVERY WORD COUNT** ... Start writing your personal statement early. Your name doesn't have to be in the introduction, but make sure it is on the top of each page. Start answering little questions like ... Who is the role model in your life? ... Someone / Something that has had an impact on you. ... Obstacles that you have overcome to be where you are today. ... How do you think you are contributing to your world? Your community? Your family?
- **GRAMMAR** ... Have several people proof read your paper. No typos!!! Make sure punctuation is correct. Have some people read for content and some for grammar. Stay away from slang words. But if something is said to you in slang and it impacted you, then you may put it into your personal statement using "quotations" around the word. Do not use profanity.
- **CLOSING** ... Make sure you wrap things up. Go back to your introduction; summarize it to explain why you are applying.
- **PERSONAL STATEMENT QUESTIONS** ... Although each scholarship is different and will ask different questions depending on the group or community they are targeting, the following are general questions to think of and answer in regards to scholarships.
 - Tell about you and your family background, family history, family challenges, impactful situations
 - What life challenges, positive or negative, have you overcome to achieve your educational goal of pursuing a higher education? How have you overcome these obstacles to grow as an individual? Examples include personal strength, supportive or lack of supportive role models, single-parent household, poverty, substance abuse, domestic violence, crime, personal handicap, medical issues, first generation college student, gang involvement, etc.
 - Who or what has encouraged you in your academic endeavors? How?
 - How will your educational and / or your career goals contribute to the advancement of (YOUR) community? How do you currently represent (YOUR) community? (Social, Political, School, Church)
 - Explain the reasons why you believe you are qualified for this scholarship? When answering this question, it is essential to read about the scholarship, why it was created, and who they are targeting. Explain why you meet their search requirements and how you would represent what they aspire to reach.