

Lesson plan

Creating a UCAS personal statement

40
Minutes

16-18
Age

KS5:L5
PSHE

Learning outcome(s)

By the end of the lesson students will:

- Understand what makes a great personal statement
- Have identified the information and evidence to include in their personal statement
- Have started to write their personal statement

Summary of the lesson

This activity helps students to create their own UCAS personal statement:

- A short video explains how to plan, start and structure a personal statement
- Students use the **Personal Statement builder** or complete the form/worksheet **My Personal Statement** to gather information and evidence to include in their personal statement
- They start to draft their personal statement

Classroom requirements

- Interactive whiteboard
- **My personal statement** form/worksheet, one per student

Suitable for students aged

16-18

Time required to complete tasks

40 mins max

Gatsby Benchmarks covered



Learning area in the CDI Career Development Framework

Explore possibilities

Programme of Study for PSHE Education

KS5:L5

Skills Builder Universal Framework



Lesson activities

1. Finding a formula

Show the video (5 minutes).

Encourage students to feedback what they have learned from the video and to raise any questions or concerns they may have.

Suggested questions for discussion:

- What are admissions tutors looking for in a personal statement?
- How can you make your statement stand out from the crowd?
- What should you avoid in your personal statement?

Time
Required

10
Min

Resources

Access the video here:
<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/writing-personal-statement/how-write-personal-statement>

2. Worksheet exercise

Note: For schools with Higher, students can use the **Personal Statement builder** in their Morrisby account in **Progress > Personal Statement**. For schools with Tracker, students can use the form **My Personal Statement** in their Morrisby account in **Progress > Activities > My personal statement**. For either activity students need access to a computer/device.

For schools without access to Higher or Tracker, hand out the worksheet **My Personal Statement** to the class:

- To record the reasons for their course choice
- To identify the evidence to support their choice

Time
Required

20
Min

Resources

My personal statement worksheet for each student

3. Drafting the personal statement

After completing the first two sections of the form/worksheet **My Personal Statement**, students can start drafting their personal statement on paper or electronically. Students using the **Personal Statement builder** create a draft personal statement using this online tool.

Time
Required

10
Min



Differentiation



Some students may need help to complete specific sections of the **Personal Statement builder** or the form/worksheet **My Personal Statement**.

Extension activities



Students can continue working on their personal statement in their own time. Remind them to revisit the advice on how to write a personal statement in their Morrisby account or on the UCAS website at <https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/writing-personal-statement/how-write-personal-statement>.

