

Boston High School - Personal Statements

THE STRUCTURE TO FOLLOW

Opening Paragraph

- Snappy opening sentence about the course you want to study
- Explain why you want to study that course

What is it about the subject that encourages you to study further? What/who inspires you or motivates you? What have you read that motivated you? Go into more detail why you wish to study this subject area. What attracts you to this field? What excites you and what do you wish to explore further? You will find looking at degree spec profiles helpful here.

(Approx. 180 words/14 lines)

First paragraph – A Level subjects

- State what you have learnt from studying the subjects you have
- State how they have prepared you for the course you want to study at university

What subjects have you been studying that are relevant? What coursework have you been working on that has as specific relevance? Demonstrate what you have done that relates to your subject field. (Approx. 130 – 150 words/9 lines)

IF AN A LEVEL DOES NOT RELATE TO THE COURSE YOU ARE APPLYING TO, THERE IS ALWAYS SOMETHING YOU CAN TAKE FROM IT i.e. XXX subject has enabled me to develop the skills of essay writing which is key to success at university.

Second paragraph – In school

- State everything you have been involved in within school e.g. student leadership team, open days, open evenings, young enterprise, sport, charity events, leadership colours, volunteering,
- State what you have learnt from this

State everything you have been involved in within school. State what you have learnt from this.
(Approx. 80 – 120 words/8 lines)

Third paragraph – Out of school

- State everything you have been involved in outside of school e.g. part time employment, volunteer work, work experience – clearly stating time frames, do not be vague.
- State what you have learnt from this

What work experience have you had? (Relating to the course and/or separate – if that's relevant.)
What skills do you have that make you an excellent candidate? When did you demonstrate these skills well? (Approx. 80 – 120 words/8 lines)

Concluding statement

Why should they offer you a place?

What makes you the right person for the course over other people who are applying?

How do you think you'll develop professionally and personally in studying for a degree at university?
Where do you see yourself in the future? Where are you heading? If you have any, what are your broad career ambitions?
Why should they offer you a place? How do you intend to be a positive asset to the university department? (Approx. 80-120 words/8 lines.)

NOTE: make sure you make it clear from what you have done what you have gained from it. Qualities such as; leadership, reliable, enthusiastic, determined, dedicated, manage time effectively.

Dos

Sound positive – this is the course for you without doubt

Blow your own trumpet – state clearly everything you have done and what you have to offer

Do NOTS

Write ALSO

Write I do A levels – it is I study A Levels

No passion please!