



HAVE YOU FOUND

THE RIGHT PERSONAL

STATEMENT TOPIC?

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You're a high school senior getting ready to take the plunge and work on one of the most significant components of your college application. Your Common App personal statement is a 650-word essay that conveys why you are a unique candidate to admissions officers.

As a result, you must not take the decision of choosing the perfect personal statement topic lightly. Go through our checklist below to make sure you have your bases covered as you decide whether your topic will help you stand out in a positive manner.

	Did you spend a significant amount of time thinking about various topics that you could tackle?
	Does your personal statement convey a unique story about you that no one else can tell?
	Does your personal statement repeat information that will appear elsewhere in your application?
	Are you writing about something that matters to you?
	Is your story genuine or are you writing about this topic because you believe your essay will impress colleges?
	If you're writing about an extracurricular activity, is it a rare extracurricular or is your approach to it unique?
	If you're writing about a challenge, have you done so in a sensitive and conscientious manner?
	If you're writing about adversity, is it actually adversity when compared to the very real issues a lot of your peers have faced?
	Are you telling your story or is your personal statement focused on someone else?
	On a similar note, if you are writing about a favorite book or movie, is the topic actually about how it has impacted you, or is it a review?
	Is this a memorable experience?
	Does your essay have a catchy hook or is it monotonous?

	Is the topic actually personal or is it broad and applicable to everyone your age?
	Does your essay make you sound humble and admirable? Or do you come across as privileged and pompous?
	Is the essay talking about you in high school, or are you writing entirely about your childhood?
	Are you writing about something controversial?
	Is your idea mature and well-developed?
	Are you writing about an achievement that you almost attained but ultimately did not?

From the checklist, you can probably tell that there are a few absolute red flags that you should definitely avoid while choosing a personal statement topic. Avoid controversial topics, make sure your understanding of adversity doesn't make you sound privileged or arrogant, and focus on who you are currently as a high schooler. Most importantly, make sure that your essay is about you. If the topic is genuinely important to you, you should be all set to tell a unique story. Happy writing!