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**Editing Your Personal Statement**

**By Elaine Millward**

**Editing Your Personal Statement by Elaine Millward**

This article includes useful advice on editing a personal statement for university admission— with impact. Please read our step-by-step guide on how to write your personal statement by visiting the following URL: <http://www.getintouni.com/Free/Writing/>

The personal statement writing guide includes a comprehensive and practical guide and is packed with inspirational and easy to follow advice, this article contains systematic instructions on the techniques to help increase the chances of your university application, this article contains a short guide on how to edit your personal statement and create tension and suspense within your writing. For most potential students there are some clear reasons why they wish to embark on university. Writing the personal statement for university submissions is one of the most difficult, daunting tasks for any potential student. This article will offer insight into how you should build up tension and suspense and how to edit your personal statement - which is one area where students tend to overlook.

It is often said that personal statements are often autobiographical. This may well be true, because a wise maxim is "write about what you know." And, if there is one thing we all know more about than anything else it is our own lives. Often students only write about the reasons why they wish to embark on a particular university course and many personal statements lack emotion, suspense, and tension. However, in a work of fact, emotion, is a key ingredient in successful personal statements. And, while students life's may differ considerably from one other, we will each have known the full gamut of emotions. It is important when writing your personal statement that you convey a sense of place to your reader and the way to do that is with the five senses sight, sound, smell, taste and touch. It is all too easy to forget that scenes, which are indelibly etched on your own mind, will not be equally clear in the reader's unless you make them so by your writing.

Tension is one of the second most important elements in writing, closely allied to suspense - the "what happens next" ingredient. The problem for many students is to try to condense the personal statement into 600 words. Obviously, the admission officer knows you only have this limited space, but nonetheless does judge you on the four minutes it takes to read your personal statement, if your personal statement includes tension and suspense – it is sure to be a winner. The secret to a good personal statement is not to give away too much too quickly, keep us guessing, hanging onto every

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word, thus building up tension and suspense. In order for there to be tension in your personal statement, there must be (or have been) something important at stake. Perhaps this was your family life or what you believe is your future. Perhaps the reason why you chose the course you wish to study. Whatever it is, by not divulging the outcome too soon, you will maintain the reader's interest for that much longer. The following personal statement starts with a powerful suspense filling introduction:

The prospect of helping people has driven me to fulfil many goals in life and this is truly my dream. Although it is great to have ambitions - I now want to translate my goals into reality. Becoming a nurse is a natural extension of my interest in medicine. Following graduation, I found myself advising investment bankers on the stock exchange, secretly desiring the opportunity of helping others overcome illness and promote health.

In this personal statement introduction the reader is captured by the reason why they chose to become an investment banker. The author of this piece has demonstrated a powerful introduction, the style is simple, straightforward narrative. This personal statement will surely provide a valuable insight as to why she wishes to become a nurse.

In order for there to be tension in your personal statement, it will help to describe a highly charged incident, part of a particularly difficult period in your life. Whatever it was, you will maintain your reader's interest for that much longer. The example below shows perfect tension and suspense build up:

When the airmail letter arrived bearing an American stamp, I knew immediately, it was from my university with my degree results, and I tore it open as excitedly as if it were a birthday present. With trembling fingers, I took out the sheets of thin blue paper - and my heart started to pound as I began to read.

Remember that tension, like all techniques, is merely another tool for making your writing more vivid and interesting to read. However, if you do use it, you must make it clear to your readers that the events you are describing have some relation to your study topic. If not, they will be confused, will have to re-read to make sense of it and may end up feeling irritated enough to stop reading.

The words and phrases often used to build up tension include: intimidated; heart pounded; ferocity. Thus, tension and suspense is built up so that metaphorically, we hold our breath impelled to read on to find out "what happens next."

### How to edit your personal statement for university submission

When you've finished the actual writing, what do you do? Well, for a start, don't be in a hurry to send off your personal statement before checking it. Few, if any, experienced writers never need to revise their work. Some do as they proceed but most will get their first Personal Statement draft down on paper without worrying too much how it's written, and then, when it's finished, go over it, pruning, polishing and tightening the general content. Therefore, this section is about how to edit the personal statement. It is advisable to check the following:

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- That you haven't been over-lavish with adjectives and adverbs. If you find you have, customer some of the former and, where possible, exchange the latter for stronger verbs.
  - Threat you haven't used clichés or hackneyed phrases but have found fresh images always of describing yourself in the best possible light.
  - Make sure you haven't constantly used the same word in the same paragraph. This can be very irritating to the admissions officer and it only needs a little more thought to re-word or, very often, it can be omitted without affecting the sense. A thesaurus is useful for finding alternative words.
  - Make sure your spelling and grammar are impeccable. If in doubt, consult a dictionary and/ or grammar book or ask someone whose knowledge of English you trust to read this through for you. Alternatively, send your personal statement to Get Into Uni Oxbridge editors <http://www.getintouni.com> who will edit this for you - to perfection.
  - Make sure you haven't used over long, unwieldy sentences or paragraphs. If you have you must break these up.
  - That you've started your personal statement with a powerful introduction so this captures your reader's attention - straight away.
  - That your structure is easy to follow and that each sentence hooks into the next line.
- That you finish with your future career goals.

A key advantage is to use a professional to edit and improve your personal statement. If, however you are working in isolation and do not have that advantage, be wary of allowing family or friends to read and comment on it. For one thing, an outside will be objective and critical: they may be full of praise or go to the other extreme so far as style, at least, is concerned.

Long before you have reached the point of revision, however, it is important that your personal statement is intended as a selling tool for you to gain entry to your chosen university. If you wish to interest the reader it is important that you are your own critic. You will need to prune and polish, check grammar and spelling, take another look at your style: in fact, you may need to re-write your first few sentences to ensure your personal statement is powerful and will capture your readers attention instantly. A great way to help with this is to read sample personal statements. <http://www.getintouni.com/samples> these samples will give you a clear idea of how you may improve your opening.

Get Into Uni offers students personal statement editing and tips on how you can get an edge over the competition when applying for university. The website includes sample personal statements, a free writing guide, and lots of information to aid you in writing the personal statement.

End Note:

Your personal statement is crucial to your application. Planning your personal statement is therefore your first step to success. Gain competitive advantage and order the best editing service on the web. Our qualified professional writers will edit your statement to perfection - ensuring your application is noticed. We recognise that you are unique and, therefore, you will receive customised advice from your personal writer. Increase your chances today!

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Elaine Millward is founder of Get Into Uni Limited. Get Into Uni Oxbridge educated editors help you

research, structure, write, present and produce your personal statement. itouni and leads workshops and writes articles on the subject. Visit Get Into Uni:<http://www.getintouni.com>

### **Writing your way into university**

**By Elaine Millward**

#### **Writing your way into university by Elaine Millward**

This article is an essential guide to how to edit the personal statement. In this article Elaine Millward, encourages you to develop your editing skills and get a perfect finished personal statement.

Packed with advice and information, this article is written for the vast numbers of students embarking on the personal statement for the first time, she explains how to use editing for your advantage.

This article has been written as a mini guide to writing the personal statement. The Get Into Uni personal statement writing guide contains systematic instructions on the techniques to help increase the odds of your application, however this article contains a short guide to writing your way into university. For most potential students there are some clear reasons why they wish to embark on university. The single best reason is that the subject area fascinates the reader. This article will offer insight into how you should approach your personal statement.

One of the typical complaints of Admission Officers is that student personal statements all seem the same; unfortunately, students normally read a number of sample statements on the internet and automatically write a typical personal statement from the range of available sample personal statements found on websites. It is important to put yourself in the shoes of the admissions officer: why would your application be unique, how are you different from the other candidates? Primarily you need to decide how you will divide your personal statement into digestible chunks. The most obvious way is to divide into paragraphs of 100 words. If you aim for between 500 and 600 words at most, it will help your admission officer when they have to read thousands of personal statements to find the perfect student.

So let's take a look at the way your personal statement should be structured? If you spent, time analysing our sample personal statements you will see that each paragraph revolves around one particular incident or the subject area of study. Although the personal statement should logically flow from start to finish, none the less, unlike a book with a distinctive story running through it and building up to a climax, a personal statement is episodic in style and content so that each paragraph stands out.

In planning your paragraphs, you must give the admissions officer a glow so they will wish to continue the next section. To illustrate the structure, let's take a look at the typical personal statement organisation. The first paragraph will need to be an exciting and dynamic narrative to capture the readers attention, the subsequent paragraphs should outline why you wish to study for your particular field followed by a compelling powerful final paragraph with strong action verbs to give your reader the final push to admit you.

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You may find it helpful to prepare a brief synopsis or outline of the way you see your personal statement developing. It doesn't have to be very long or detailed and, like most personal statements outlines, you do not have to stick to it if, as you go along, you find a better route for your journey. Keep it simple and let it serve merely as a quick reminder of where you're going. It might run like this: First

memory - seeing my new baby brother in my mother's arms. Nursing experience - volunteer in residential nursing home. Visiting the baby clinic - desires to become a midwife sufficed. Goals for the future - career ambitions.

It is important to cover whatever period you intend to include in your personal statement because time spent planning your sequence and the method you feel happiest with will undoubtedly make the actual writing that much easier for you.

The biggest problem you will find is finding the topics of discussion in your personal statement and selecting those topics you want to use and which topics you wish to leave out. Remember that with any form of writing you are practicing the art form. Get Into Uni Oxford Educated editors edit the personal statements for our customers. A while ago, I was asked to take a critical look at a personal statement which spanned the student's life from age two to eighteen and it made gripping reading but was far too long and the student had not been selective enough in the abundance of material she chose from. The word count ran to 1,500 words - far too long for a personal statement. The task of reducing your personal statement can be enthusiastically undertaken but the problem is that you need to look at your original brainstormed ideas to organise your material for the selection process. The only criterion you need to apply at this stage is this incident of sufficient interest to the admission officer.

I hope that you agree a powerful beginning is of paramount importance or we will quickly lose the Admission Officers interest. Then, once having captured his or hers attention, we have to make sure your personal statement ending is dynamic and in the right place. Each paragraph should be pleasing to the reader and you need to write a natural conclusion. Chekhov once said that the essence of good style is simplicity. The best advice is therefore, to keep it simple.

Get Into Uni offers students personal statement editing and tips on how you can get an edge over the competition when applying for university. The website includes sample personal statements, a free writing guide, and

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Your personal statement is crucial to your application. Planning your personal statement is therefore your first step to success. Gain competitive advantage and order the best editing service on the web.

Get Into Uni qualified professional writers will edit your statement to perfection - ensuring your application is noticed. We recognise that you are unique and, therefore, you will receive customised advice from your personal writer. Increase your chances today!

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Elaine Millward is Founder of Get Into Uni Limited, an online editing service for student personal statements. Links in article that you may find useful: [Personal Statement Writing Guide](#) –

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