



Week 2 focus – Personal Statements

Welcome to the weekly progression update. Here you will be able to find ideas and resources to get you started with your research. You should be spending 1 hour a week thinking about your progression plan. Any questions, please email me isaacr@smrt.bristol.sch.uk. If you haven't done so already, please follow redcliffeprogession on Instagram for more updates throughout the week.

What is a personal statement?

A **personal statement** supports your application to study at a university. It's a chance for you to articulate why you'd like to study a particular course or subject, and what skills and experience you possess that show your passion for your chosen field.

Do I need to write a personal statement if I don't plan to apply to University?

Yes! A personal statement is also useful when applying for apprenticeships or jobs. Although they may ask for this in a slightly different format, the information you write will be useful.

Is there a limit to how long it can be?

Yes! It must be within 4000 characters (including spaces) and 47 lines –this is roughly a page of A4 typed Arial Size 11 Font. It will probably start off much longer than this as you get your initial ideas down and then after several checks and drafts you can cut it down to fit within the limit.

What if I don't know what subject I want to study yet?

Hopefully the research you started last week was helpful – maybe continue with this for another week before you start thinking about your personal statement. Do you want to speak to our school careers advisor over email for some further guidance? If so, email Miss Isaac who can arrange this. Alternatively, you could pick one of your A level subjects to get started and adapt this later on if you change your mind.

What does it need to include?

The personal statement needs to show off what you know about your subject and how you can evidence the skills which will be useful to the course you plan to study. This might include lectures or subject days you have attended; work experience carried out; specific reading beyond the course specification; a link to your creative portfolio of work; discussion of a documentary you have watched and any leadership roles or extra-curricular activities that enhance you as a person.

Here are the 5 websites we recommend you use to get started

1. [Our SMRT progression site](#) which includes more top tips + a folder of examples for you to review
2. [HE+ website](#) has links to information and further reading in your subject
3. [UCAS personal statement template tool](#) to structure your personal statement

Final top tip – try to write 1 paragraph by the end of the Easter Holidays & email this to your tutor. Look at some examples and then start with one of your middle paragraphs. Don't start with the first – this tends to be the hardest. Good luck ☺