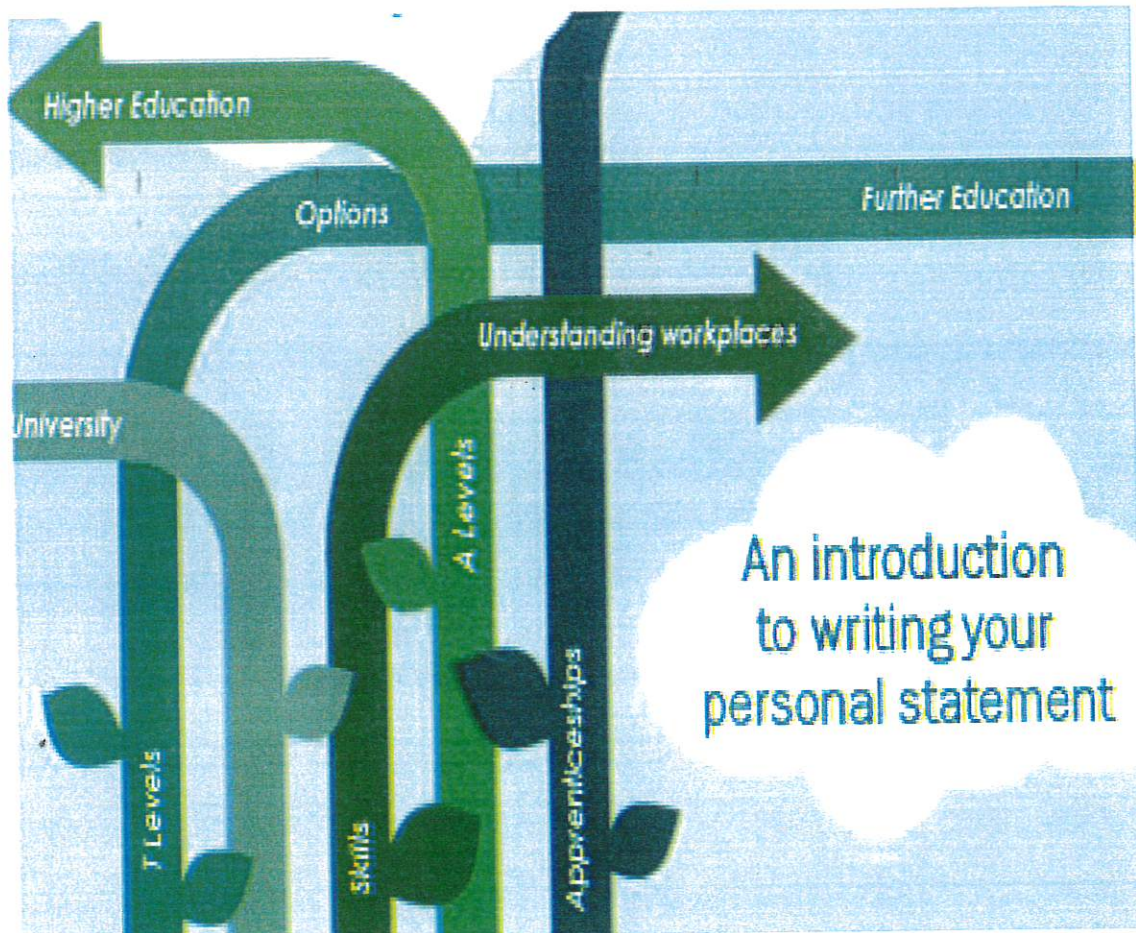




# BOWLAND HIGH



## What is a Personal Statement?

A college personal statement is some written information about you, which puts across relevant skills, experience and attributes that will make you appealing and illustrate your suitability for a course for which you'd like to apply. It should be professional, and be in your 'voice'.

A personal statement is important because you are introducing yourself, in your own words, to someone who has nothing else to go on, having never met you. It is crucial then, that you include your own thoughts, feelings and opinions.

College admissions staff, and recruiters are curious. They want to know more about you and why you chose to study at their college (rather than the other choices).

You must always link back to why you are suitable candidate for the subjects they are offering. Why should they select you rather than someone else? Why are you suited to their college and the courses? What do you offer them in terms of your academic ability, confidence and interests?

**First explore the answers to these questions about your choices...It will help you write a statement with appropriate skills and qualities which match the requirements of your course.**

*With sample answers in italic below each heading*

### **Which subject would you like to study?**

*English Literature*

### **Why? What specific aspects of the subject appeals to you?**

*I like the sound of the texts we will be studying on the course.*

*I read a lot already and am good at the subject.*

*I like writing and can already write well-structured essays.*

*I want to study this subject later at university.*

### **What does the course involve?**

*Extensive reading- focusing on a Shakespeare play and poetry.*

*Essay-writing,*

*Group presentations,*

*a coursework/essay assignment of 4,000 words.*

*Lots of reading and writing for homework.*

### **What skills are required for you to be good at achieving the things you've written above?**

*Enjoyment of reading.*

*Good time-management- being able to read long texts and write essays.*

*Public speaking- being able to debate and share interpretations, ability to work in a group*

*Concise note-taking and listening skills.*

*Personal organisation- a lot of work, essays, wider reading etc.*

*Responsible and hard-working- being able to complete the work at a high standard.*

### **How have you demonstrated these skills?**

*Poetry/creative writing awards.*

*Evidence of consistently high marks in the subject & previous academic essays*

*Work experience at the library- talking with customers, recommending books, being able to prioritise and manage my time in the evenings.*

*-Reading widely in my spare time.*



## What to include in your personal statement

### About the college

- Why do you want to go there?
- Have you been to any open days or visits?
- What about the college/courses on offer appeals to you?
- What subjects do you want to study?

### What are your hobbies?

- What made (or encouraged) you take up this hobby?
- How often do you do it?
- What skills have you developed?
- Are these skills transferable? Will they be helpful for the subjects you hope to study? Or towards what you want to do in the future?

### What are your qualities?

- Are you friendly, hardworking, quiet, polite, reliable?
- Give some specific examples. (Ask a parent, sibling, friend, teacher if you need ideas.)

### What are your strengths/skills?

- Have you achieved any certificates or awards? What for? How did you gain them?
- What are some tasks or activities you enjoy doing? Why?
- What is your favourite subject at school?
- Do you do any wider reading or work around the subject outside of school?
- How are your strengths relevant to the subjects you want to study?

### Share any employment experience

- Have you done any work experience, volunteering or part time jobs?
- What skills did you learn from these experiences?
- How does your work experience and overall character show you are a valuable person to have at this college?

### The future

- What are your goals for the future?
- How do you hope your experiences at college will help you achieve them?

## Example sentence starters

I have a great interest in...

Studying...has always appealed to me because...

In my free time I enjoy...

After school I dedicate a lot of time to...

It is important to me because...

In the future I hope to become a...

I understand that in order to achieve this goal I must...

I believe an important aspect of studying...is to learn...

Whilst working at...I learnt how to...

During my experience at...I was encouraged to...

In my free time I have focused on...which has enabled me to...

I have developed the ability to...because...

This demonstrates that I am...because...

**Skills and attributes you might want to select from. Don't use them all, and don't pick things that you can't back up with an example as they may ask you about it at your interview!**

There are PLENTY more of them, but these are just to get you started if you need some ideas.

Team player	Friendly	Enthusiastic	Resourceful
Time management	Positive attitude	Supportive	Problem solver
Organised	Good timekeeping	Considerate	Enjoys a challenge
Good communication skills	Reliable	Good leader	Logical
	Motivated	Determined	Understanding
Creative	Helpful	Curious	Respectful