

Helpful Hints for Writing a Personal Statement

1. Don't delay!! Begin a rough draft of your essay right away. These things take time and it is something that you will write and then revisit to make changes and revisions. You may write it and then read it the next day and completely change the whole thing!
2. Sparkle and shine! The committee reads many, many essays and you want yours to stand out. This is our way of getting to know you so don't be afraid to be personal. Tell us about you and why you are applying for this scholarship. Why should we pick you over someone else?
3. Candidates must *demonstrate* interest, dedication and potential in working with young children. Don't just state that sentence again. Give us evidence! Document *how* you are dedicated to young children.
4. Be specific: make sure to answer all the items on the list (your educational goals, your career goals, financial need, and how you plan on using the award). Tell us *why* those are your goals.
5. Do not be shy about your achievements. It may sound like boasting; but, again, this is our way of getting to know you. This is your only chance to let us know about all the amazing things you do.
6. Take care of your writing. Edit carefully for spelling, grammar and punctuation. Use a consistent verb tense. Try to keep your personal statement to one to two pages.

Checklist:

- Does your introduction capture the reader's attention? _____
- Are you consistent in your verb tense? _____
- Are you clear and coherent? _____
- Have you checked for grammatical and spelling errors? _____
- Does the essay present you as you wish to be seen? _____
- Did another person check your essay for grammatical errors? _____
- Would you remember your essay if you read 200 others? _____
- Does your closing paragraph present you as you wish to be remembered? _____