

Personal Statement Worksheet

This Worksheet is intended to help you start drafting your Personal Statement. As mentioned in the [CommKit article](#), a key part of the process is to find a story to tell that is appealing enough to grab the attention of the Admissions Committee and help showcase your abilities.

Answering one or some of the following questions can help you generate useful content:

Questions to ask yourself before writing the Personal Statement

What differentiates you from the average candidate that is applying to the same program?

What personal experiences have shaped the way you address your life now, or have boosted your interest in a particular field?

How did you become interested in the field you want to get specialized in during grad school?

What did you enjoy most about your years as an undergraduate student?

What would you bring to the university community if you were admitted?

What knowledge and/or skills do you think you are lacking, and how might the graduate program help you develop new strengths?

Real examples of prompts

Here we shared some actual examples of prompts that universities ask applicants to answer in their Personal Statements as part of the application process.

MIT Sloan School of Management

The mission of the MIT Sloan School of Management is to develop principled, innovative leaders who improve the world and to generate ideas that advance management practice. **Please share with us something about your past that aligns with this mission (250 words or less).**

MIT LGO program

We are interested in learning more about how you work, think, and act. In your response, especially to Question 1, please describe in detail what you thought, felt, said, and did.

Question 1

Tell us about a recent success you had: How did you accomplish this? Who else was involved? What hurdles did you encounter? What type of impact did this have? (500 words or fewer)

Question 2

Why do you wish to pursue the LGO program? What are the goals that you

hope to accomplish both as a student and graduate of the program? Be sure to include a description of your post-LGO career plans. (250 words or fewer)

Question 3

Why do you wish to pursue the engineering field and specialty area you have selected? (250 words or fewer).

*Shepherd
University*

Modified from <https://www.shepherd.edu/personal-statement-writing-prompts/>

Personal Statement should be at least 250 words in length and can be on any of the topics below.

1. Have you faced a challenge or failure? How has that affected you? How did you learn and grow from the experience?
2. **We are looking for students who will become positive additions to our student body.** If this describes you, **please share how you'll become involved at Shepherd and what your background, identity, interests or talents will add to our student community.**
3. Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.
4. Describe an engaging topic, idea, or concept of personal importance to you. What interests you about this and where do you turn to learn more?