



# MEDICAL SCHOOL PERSONAL STATEMENT TIPS






Your personal statement is an opportunity to show the admissions board who you are as a person. Personal statements can count for a large percentage of your total admissions score, so it's important to take your time with your writing process (some say to spend around 6 months writing your statement). Admissions value empathy, authenticity, and passion. The essay will tell the admissions more about you than your topic, so you can write about nearly anything. The essay will also show if you have the characteristics necessary to become a doctor.

## SOME TOPICS TO WRITE ABOUT:

- An experience that challenged or changed your perspective about medicine
- A relationship with a mentor or another inspiring individual
- A challenging personal experience
- Unique hardships, challenges, or obstacles that may have influenced your educational pursuits
- Your motivation to seek a career in medicine
- A relationship with a mentor or another inspiring individual

**Note: You'll write an additional essay when you submit secondary applications to individual schools. These require a response to a specific question. (Credit: The Princeton Review)**




## QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT:

-  Why can you really only see yourself being a physician?"
-  "What is it about being a doctor that has turned you on to this field?"
-  "What kind of doctor do you imagine yourself being?"
-  "Who do you want to be for your patients?"
-  "What are you going to do specifically for your patients that only you can do?" (Credit:U.S. News)

## TIPS FOR WRITING A STRONG PERSONAL STATEMENT:




### Start with a Strong Opening

Your introduction should grab attention immediately. Avoid generic statements and instead use a compelling hook. A structured approach like the 5-point format can help:

-  Catch their attention with an engaging introduction.
-  Develop 3–4 body paragraphs that highlight who you are (*show, don't tell*).
-  Conclude effectively, tying everything together.




### Explain Why Medical School Is Your Next Step

Your statement should clearly convey why medicine is the right path for you:

-  Reflect on key moments that led you here.
-  Use anecdotes, but stay focused—this isn't an autobiography.
-  Show how your past experiences align with your future goals.




### Make Yourself Stand Out

Admissions officers read thousands of essays—avoid clichés like “I love science” or “I want to help people.” Instead:

-  Offer specific details about your journey and motivations.
-  Show, don't tell—illustrate your strengths through real-life examples.
-  Keep your statement engaging and memorable.





### Revise and Refine

A strong personal statement requires multiple revisions:

-  Edit and proofread carefully for clarity and conciseness.
-  Ensure your conclusion ties back to your introduction.
-  Seek feedback from mentors, peers, or advisors.

### Pay Attention to Technical Details

A strong personal statement requires multiple revisions:

-  Use clear, simple language.
-  Vary sentence structure to keep your writing engaging.
-  Stick to word limits and follow formatting guidelines.
-  Ensure smooth transitions between ideas.

### SOURCES :

- **The Princeton Review:** <https://www.princetonreview.com/med-school-advice/medical-school-personal-statement>
- **U.S. News:** <https://www.usnews.com/education/best-graduate-schools/top-medical-schools/articles/2017-06-12/2-medical-school-essays-that-admissions-officers-loved>