



## Do's and Don'ts of Personal Statements

### Do's

- Be objective, direct, & straightforward
- Form conclusions on evidence from your life that explain the value of your experience
- Be specific, use examples from real life instances
- Get to the point early to catch their attention
- Know what admissions officers are seeking
- Plan before writing it
- Limit length to 2 pages or less
- Make sure it's well written
- Keep anecdotes focused on your life after you began college
- Focus on being genuine and personal

### Don'ts

- Use the "what I did with my life" approach
- Use the "I've always wanted to be a \_\_\_\_\_" approach
- Use a catalog of achievements
- Lecture the reader
- Plagiarize your statement
- Wait until the last minute- it will sound rushed