A personal statement is an essay about you! A successful essay reflects on your achievements, opportunities, and obstacles in life. Your personal statement addresses your past, present, and future by explaining who you are, how you got to this point, and where you are headed. On average, the essay is around a page long, which means that you have a limited space to creatively illustrate your achievements, your goals, and your influences. The essay also allows you to explain your academic record and any inconsistencies.

1. Introduce yourself!
   1. Name, school, town you’re from, family members, etc.
2. Talk about your current educational goals and successes.
   1. College class you’ve taken, your GPA & class rank, activities & athletic involvement and academic achievements
3. What are you career goals? Future goals? What influenced these goals?
4. What field are you going into?
5. Why are you going into this field? How did you become interested in this field? What is your back story? Experiences? Role Models?
6. What personal attributes and skills will contribute to your success in this field?
7. Where do you plan to practice your field of work in the future?
8. What makes you stand out from other applicants? What makes you deserve this scholarship? Special skills or characteristics? Experiences? Mention a personal moment that connects to achieving your future/career goals. Describe any obstacles you’ve had to overcome.
9. What is your need for this scholarship?
   1. Financial? Other members of your family going through college too? Other hardships?
10. Don’t forget to sign the bottom of your essay! Thank them for considering you.

Things to consider:

1. Consider what the scholarship is asking for. You can write one personal statement but tailor it to fit other scholarships. You need to make sure you are fitting the qualifications and requirements. Remember to review those before altering your statement!
2. Remember who your audience is when writing your essay!