

Rubric:

Personal Statements

Review your Personal Statement and award + or – points based on your evaluation of its “effective” or “ineffective” characteristics. You do not have to award points in every block.					
<i>Subtract points if the statement:</i>		Minus	<i>Award points if the statement:</i>		Plus
Talks about self in primarily general or abstract ways.	-3		Feels authentic, has a personable voice with a good balance of friendliness and formality.	+3	
Offers no specific examples	-3		Develops a portrait of a candidate who is a mature thinker.	+3	
Gets lost in too much creative storytelling, examples or anecdotes appear irrelevant.	-3		Offers specific examples or anecdotes to illustrate relevant experiences or qualities.	+3	
Discussion of experience remains superficial, making only generic observations.	-2		Considers and comments on the significance of experiences.	+2	
Relies on lofty and/or generalized language referring to such things as “passion,” “lifelong dream,” “helping people.”	-2		Offers a clear sense of why the candidate is interested in the program.	+2	
Comes across as pompous or conceited.	-2		Provides a nice balance of stating, showing, and connecting.	+2	
Seems to be applying to the profession rather than the program.	-1		Demonstrates an awareness of and investment in the candidate’s field of study	+1	
Seems overly technical, perhaps “teaching the doctor medicine.”	-1		Illustrates, through example and discussion, how he/she will be an asset to the program (i.e. not a good doctor, but a good medical student).	+1	
Makes you want to pass on this applicant.	-5		Makes you want to invite this applicant in for an interview.	+5	
Total Negative points =			Total Positive points =		
Total Score =					

(Courtesy of the VCU Writing Center)