

Review Questions to Ask	Revision suggestions
<p>1. Am I writing an “announcement”?</p> <p>“This is a story about my experience with...”</p> <p>“My commitment to diversity is shown by...”</p> <p>“I would like to thank the admissions committee for considering my application.”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start an essay with interesting dialogue or vivid details for an effective hook. • Use enough details so your reader can easily determine how your story/essay addresses the writing without an “announcement.” • This is a personal essay, do not include niceties or “thank-you” appropriate in a personal letter.
<p>2. Is this something everyone already knows? Is it a cliché? Am I stating something obvious?</p> <p>“Every journey begins with a single step”</p> <p>“I must be true to myself”</p> <p>“My strength is thinking outside of the box”</p> <p>“There is light at the end of the tunnel”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider deleting if it does not move your narrative. • If at the beginning of your essay, use interesting dialogue to drop the reader right into the story, or use vivid details that grab attention. • If at end of your essay, revise with more personal reflection instead of a cliché.
<p>3. Am I saying something no one would disagree with or highlighting a value every applicant would have?</p> <p>“Hope is something all human beings need to live”</p> <p>“My life has taught me that you must work hard to achieve success.”</p> <p>"To achieve your goals, it's important to never give up and work harder than everyone else."</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify what is the key value or idea you want to express and why it’s important to you. Consider how to show this through a significant personal story. • For a conclusion to your story, talk about an insight you learned about yourself or how you fit into a larger world. Delete parts that sound like giving advice, is “preachy”, or is only used as an inspirational ending. • (In some countries, students are taught they need to end every essay with an inspirational message, but this is not necessary or desired for applications to US schools)
<p>4. Does the sentence make a claim but doesn’t provide details that show “how” or “why” it is believable?</p> <p>"I have gained a broader perspective on diversity and inclusion."</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the claim is important to your narrative, provide supporting details that explain “how” and “why” the statement is true. • You can always edit for word count at the end. Delete claims that are not essential.

<p>5. Does the sentence have common idioms or slang that are more appropriate for casual oral language but not formal writing?</p> <p>“As we all know...”</p> <p>“Of course, it goes without saying...”</p> <p>“It wasn’t like a big deal but they all freaked out”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If it is used as <i>quoted dialogue</i> and important to show voice and moves the story, keep it. • If the phrase is unnecessary, delete it. • Reword necessary content using formal, professional wording and style of writing.
<p>6. Does the sentence state something the school would already know about itself?</p> <p>“My goal is to attend the UW’s school of nursing which is ranked first in the country”</p> <p>“The Foster School of Business was founded in 1917 and has since become one of the leaders in . . .”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain how their values, mission fit with your priorities, and how their programs meet your needs or goals. • Avoid all mention of school rank which imply you are overly concerned about social status.
<p>7. Am I just trying to say something nice about the school or just showing I have researched their website?</p> <p>“Thank you for considering my application, would be my honor to be accepted into your esteemed university”</p> <p>“Your mission to ‘excellence in all endeavors’ and ‘social justice for all’ is what I strive to be and do.”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delete personal niceties which are not needed and inappropriate for personal essays (in the US) • You can prove your research about the school by showing how they are a good fit for you and your goals. Be specific about their programs that suits your goals or what you have done that aligns well with their mission.