Personal Statements

John Giannini
What makes a successful application?

- Grades
- Teacher's Reference
- Personal Statement
Personal statements: The facts

- 4,000 characters (approx. 47 lines) including spaces
- No formal structure
- No spelling or grammar check in UCAS form
- Our admissions team read every personal statement

Your skills: 30%
Why this course?: 70%
Why are personal statements so important?

NOT ALWAYS AN INTERVIEW
SELL YOURSELF
WHY YOU?

BETTER STATEMENT
MORE OFFERS
MORE CHOICES

COMPETITION
Personal statements: What to include

- Career plans?
- Future
- What makes the degree programme interesting?
- Work
- Extra Curricular
- Personal statement content
- What have you learnt from your work experience?
- What do you want to study? Why?
- What work are you most proud of? Why?
- Academic
- Any learning outside of school/curriculum?
Transferable skills

COMMUNICATION SKILLS
RELIABLE
TRUSTWORTHY
DIPLOMACY
INDEPENDENCE
PASSION AND DRIVE
COMMITMENT

CONSCIENTIOUS
FINANCIALLY ASTUTE
TIME MANAGEMENT
LEADERSHIP
FLEXIBILITY
RESPONSIBILITY
COMPUTER LITERACY
Personal Statement: What to include

SPORTS CAPTAIN
VOLUNTEERING
DRAMA PRODUCTION
# Things to consider

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IMAGINE WHO IS READING YOUR APPLICATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TRY TO BE ORIGINAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PROOFREAD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>START AND FINISH ON A POSITIVE NOTE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Things to avoid

- DON’T MENTION SPECIFIC INSTITUTIONS
- DON’T GO MAD WITH A THESAURUS
- DON’T INCLUDE IRRELEVANT INFORMATION
- DON’T EXAGGERATE OR LIE
Things to Avoid

How Not to Start a Personal Statement

“Fashion is not something that exists in dresses only” (189 times)

“Nursing is a profession I have always looked upon with”… (178 times)

“For as long as I can remember I have been interested in”… (166 times)

“I am an International Academy student and have been studying since”… (141 times)

“Academically, I have always been a very determined and”… (138 times)
Questions?

www.sussex.ac.uk/study