Goals

1. Understand the role of the personal statement

2. Consider a standard structure for statements

3. Try some drafting and revising
The Role of the Personal Statement

- vs. Cover Letter (Story)
- vs. Resume (History)
- Establish your Purpose & Vision
- Show substantive reflection
- Set yourself Apart
  - Everyone wants to be a doctor because they want to help people. Ugh.
- It’s an investment for both of you
Absent a specific prompt,

1. Reflect on your past to
2. Show goals for the future.
3. Show why you’re a good fit for them, and
4. Show why they’re a good fit for you.
5. Summarize your plans for the future.
Activities

• Brainstorm
  – The influences of the past
  – The goals for the future
  – What you bring to a school (your KSAs/qualities)
  – What they offer you (not just name--think research, experience, people)

List/use as much specific detail as possible.
Activities

• Highlight in your draft
  – The influences of the past
  – The goals for the future
  – What you bring to a school (your KSAs/qualities)
  – What they offer you (not just name--think research, experience, people)

Move them around to create the structure from the start. Brainstorm where items are missing.
Bonus Writing Tips

• After 23 words, no one cares.
• If you go over 23 words in a sentence, make sure those before and after are less than 23.
• Adverbs truly and unquestionably add zilch.
• Use the Subject-Verb-Object sentence structure.
• Don’t assume they know your jargon.
• Sell, but don’t oversell.