

Start with an engaging hook or a personal anecdote related to your field of interest.

Anatomy of a Personal Statement: Structure and Strategy Explained by a Student

Introduction

Ideas will continuously emerge, mainly when you least expect it. Even the simplest ideas have the potential to develop into amazing projects. As an animator, I aim to explore these concepts. I do not want to miss these opportunities, as I strive to continuously extend my skills. I want to apply to UQAT to immerse myself in a new learning environment that will challenge me outside of my comfort zone, as I believe this is the most efficient method to expand my creative abilities.

Clearly state your main theme or purpose for applying.

Hook the reader or the audience:

Your introduction should grab attention and set the tone.

Do your research:

If asked why you are applying to a specific school, highlight unique aspects of the program.

Body paragraphs

In highschool, my art teachers offered us the resources needed to experiment with our creativity. [I was often completing my projects ahead of the deadline. I used my extra time to refine my techniques. It led me to participate in academic projects and contests, one of those occasions involved designing a logo for the art focus courses. Many revisions and suggestions were needed to develop a design we were satisfied with. These designs were used for the school's agenda cover. I also had the chance to participate in a contest where we had to make a logo for our graduation hoodies.] From these experiences, I received honest feedback to improve the way I work.

Discuss your academic background and relevant coursework.

This eagerness followed in college, but I faced challenges with managing my time. [While I was in a pre-university programme, the lack of time led to rushed projects, but I managed to ensure their quality. Despite my demanding schedule, I passed my classes and managed to maintain some time to sharpen my skills.] After that college session, I transitioned into the multimedia college programme to focus more on these projects.

Explain challenges you have overcome and how they influenced your growth.

1. Topic sentence

[2. Supporting sentences]

3. Concluding sentence

Tell a compelling story:

Use concrete experiences to engage the reader or the audience and make your text or your video memorable.

Be specific:

Support your claims with examples.

Find a unique angle:

Even an ordinary story can stand out with the right perspective.

Personal Statement

Furthermore, I have honed my skills by working in various online spaces for several years. [I have completed multiple commissions with online customers mainly ranging from stuffed animals, animations, art or occasionally character design. I appreciate the whole process that begins from **drafting** the project's terms to **communicating** with the client to **solve encountered problems**. In addition, I have participated in multiple animation projects online. For example, I have volunteered to contribute to multiple multi animators projects (**Maps**). They go through a **selection process** and have rules to follow to ensure **consistency**. As well, I have gathered multiple online teams for my own MAPs or other projects online.] It is an interesting experience to get insights into the different roles of a team. Each role has its own specialty and dynamic, contributing uniquely to the success of the project.

Demonstrate

knowledge: Show your understanding of the field using relevant terminology and experiences or **use relevant industry terms**

and show that you understand the company's mission and goals.

Demonstrate your passion and commitment to the field.

Highlight key experiences (internships, volunteer work, projects) that shaped your goals.

Tips for Body Paragraphs

Show, Don't Just Tell

Use specific examples to illustrate your strengths rather than making general statements. For instance, instead of saying, "I am passionate about teaching," describe an experience that demonstrates your passion.

Keep It Personal and Authentic

Your 'voice' should shine through your text. Avoid very complicated terms that you would not use in a different context.

Check grammar, punctuation, and word choice.

Review for clarity, coherence, and conciseness.

1. Summarize your key points.

Conclusion

I believe that tools do not define the limit of one's skill. Any tool can be practical if creativity is not lacking. I often find workarounds when encountering an issue. UQAT offers an exceptional opportunity for me to learn how to strengthen a team as an animator. I aim to equip myself with the best resources and knowledge needed to overcome future challenges. I aspire to contribute to projects that push the boundaries of the industry by applying the skills and knowledge I will gain at UQAT.

Rosalind Borg, Cégep de l'Outaouais, May 2025. Artificial Intelligence Aided

Answer the question:

Tailor your response to each school's specific prompts or the specific job or company.

2. Reinforce how this opportunity aligns with your long-term goals (if applicable). OR reinforce the impact your journey as a Cégep student has had on you.

3. End with a memorable final statement that leaves an impact.