

Rutgers Learning Centers

At Camden Campus

Structuring a Typical Personal Statement

1. Paragraph 1: Introduction

- tell a story
- hook the reader
- limit your topic
- write in the first person
- introduce where the essay is going

2. Paragraphs 2 - 4: Body

- develop the focus you have introduced
- talk about what you did and why it's important
- use persuasive (but not arrogant) language
- use transitions
- watch grammar, spelling, verb tenses
- spice up the language - use the thesaurus for synonyms if you have redundancy in word choice (ex. "said" = affirmed, sanctioned, mentioned, voiced, objected, endorsed, etc.).

3. Paragraph 5: Conclusion

- tie everything into your desire to pursue ____ school
- summarize your subject and its significance as it is related to _____
- close the essay by relating it back to your hook

(adapted from a handout given at a Princeton Review presentation held at Rutgers University for prospective law school students)

For more information, visit or call your nearest Rutgers Learning Center, or visit our website:<http://rlc.rutgers.edu>

Camden
Armitage 231
856/225-6442

College Ave
Kreeger LRC
732-932-1443

Cook/Douglass
Loree 124
732-932-1660

Livingston
Tillett 111
732-445-0986

Newark
Conklin Hall 126
973-353-5608