

**Planning a university personal statement**

*Brainstorm the things below in the boxes provided. Don't edit your ideas at all at this stage, just write down everything that occurs to you.*

Your hobbies

Your achievements

Your future

Your academic career/ academic record

Times you have shown your determination



Times you have shown your ability to use English

Difficulties that you have overcome

Your strengths/ Positive aspects of your personality

Reasons why you want to continue your studies

Reasons why you want to study that subject

(Real) reasons why you want to study in that country/ city/ university

Your study skills

Other skills and talents

People, experiences and things which have inspired you

*Use these questions to help you eliminate things from the lists above:*

- Which things above are probably true for almost everyone who sends an application?
- Which things above could sound like boasting?
- Which things above don't have any particular connection to your future?

*Use these questions to help you select from the things that you have brainstormed above:*

- Which of those things show something about your personality?
- Which of the things above could be particularly relevant to your studies at university?
- Which things would be interesting to read about?
- Which things can you provide evidence for?
- Which things can you link together to make paragraphs with one clear topic each?