



Personal Statement Report

Name: John Doe

Subject(s): Medicine

Other notes: Example review

Order #000

1. Critique of personal statement

Ever since ~~I had~~ my first work experience, my love for medicine continued to grow and I ~~have become~~ ~~am~~ certain that this career path is the right one for me. ~~Its~~ ~~The~~ dynamic and ever-lasting nature ~~of this career~~ instantly drew me towards the beauty of medicine. ~~As such~~ ~~I find the complex nature of the human body truly~~ ~~remarkable and~~ ~~using~~ ~~utilising~~ ~~my knowledge to relieve~~ ~~relief those suffering would be by far the greatest fulfilment I could achieve.~~ ~~I find the complex nature of the human body truly remarkable. Consequently,~~ ~~utilising such knowledge to relieve those suffering would be by far the greatest fulfilment I could achieve.~~

One of the first experiences I had with medicine was at a work placement at Hammersmith hospital. In the A&E department, ~~I helped bring equipment to the doctors and nurses and~~ the huge variety of cases that were present intrigued me. I spent my time shadowing ~~and~~ ~~asking~~ doctors ~~about their experiences~~ and observing the way patients ~~are~~ ~~were~~ treated. Observing the staff was a truly inspiring experience. For instance, a surgical operation for a skin wound highlighted how such ~~a~~ routine operation could vastly improve the quality of life of patients. Nevertheless, I learnt that doctors are under a lot of stress ~~and need to meet~~ ~~tight deadlines while also working long hours~~; however, I feel that it is worth ~~giving up some~~ ~~of my time committing my time to this rewarding career~~ to save the lives of many others.

Commented [A1]: Can be removed to save on characters. It does not add much value to the sentence.

Commented [A2]: A slightly clichéd opening sentence which can be replaced with a more punchy or informative introduction. In addition, there is an implication that your interest in medicine only began following the work experience – did you not find the subject interesting beforehand e.g. books, science subjects, documentaries?

Commented [A3]: Can be replaced with 'am' to save on characters and improve fluency

Commented [A4]: Can be removed to save on characters

Commented [A5]: A comma is required here

Commented [A6]: A comma is not required here

Commented [A7]: 'Utilising' may be used for a better fluency

Commented [A8]: This sentence is great in conveying your motivation for the subject. However, bear in mind that it is on the long side and would benefit from breaking up into 2 sentences

Commented [A9]: This is not required and detracts from the more crucial skills that you would have appreciated are required for the career e.g. teamwork, communication

Commented [A10]: Can be removed to save on characters as it does not add much value to the sentence

Commented [A11]: Should be 'were' as it is in the past tense

Commented [A12]: Should be 'a'

Commented [A13]: Can be removed to save on characters. It is important to realise the drawbacks of medicine but briefly mentioning stress is adequate.

Commented [A14]: There should be a semi-colon here

Commented [A15]: Suggested phrasing to better convey enthusiasm for medicine

During my work experience at an oncology ward, I was introduced to the fascinating world of organised multidisciplinary teams that require, which allowed me to observe their effective communication and cooperation. I admired the concentration and precision of a consultant performing surgery to treat lung cancer. Following surgery, the patient was reminded of the various lifestyle choices and preventative measures that could improve his quality of life. Such a message was later conveyed by the doctor to the patient, linking back to my GP placement, and emphasised the holistic nature of the profession. The experience also exposed me to the patience, ability to handle pressure and communication skills required to be an effective doctor.

Further to this, I have volunteered at a care home for six months. This proved to be a truly humbling experience which I thoroughly enjoyed, presenting the realities and challenges that doctors face in modern medicine. The most enjoyable aspect of my placement was talking with the residents, some of whom haven't have not been visited for months. This truly highlighted how patients can have simpler, more personal needs and highlighted to me the importance of empathy. This truly highlighted the importance of empathy and how patients can have simpler, more personal needs. It has also given me insight into the difficulties faced by carers, such as dealing with the stressful situation of an aggressive patient suffering from bipolar disease.

Commented [A16]: Comma required

Commented [A17]: This suggestion allows for a better flow in the sentence

Commented [A18]: Your work experiences are great, although you may want to elaborate further on what you learnt from your GP placement

Commented [A19]: Comma not required

Commented [A20]: This is a great example that links a specific example of your experiences to what you learnt during your placement

Commented [A21]: This could be further improved by providing illustrative examples of this e.g. perhaps a particular patient-doctor interaction during your work experience

Commented [A22]: Should be 'have not' to maintain a formal tone.

Commented [A23]: Reorganising the sentence can be used to improve fluency and avoid repeating 'highlighted'

Commented [A24]: This paragraph is excellent and demonstrates your passion as well as your understanding of what medicine involves

Delving deeper into medical issues, I completed a project on atrial arrhythmia, ~~a common cardiovascular condition that is~~ the most common abnormal heart rhythm worldwide. To gain further insight into the medical field, I am a subscriber of the Student BMJ, which has allowed me to explore topics ranging from ~~embryogenesis to neurodegeneration~~. I have been volunteering for the past eight months at my local primary school, ~~where I would help teachers by carrying out tasks for them, ranging from listening to children reading to making sure that all their toys have been collected~~. I have further improved my skills by being part of the school council, ~~where I am a representative of my form class and present their ideas on their behalf~~. I am also a member of the school's medical society, ~~where I would give a presentation on a medical topic I have researched where I have given a presentation on [topic]~~. ~~I sold food and drinks to raise money for charity in school, which has boosted my confidence~~. ~~In addition, I enjoy raising money for charity by selling food and drinks at school.~~

Commented [A25]: Can be removed to save on characters

Commented [A26]: An excellent point. However, it is important to bear in mind that you may be asked to provide examples of such papers during your interview

Commented [A27]: Good, but perhaps try and find more relevant examples of your role that better relate to skills developed e.g. teaching the students would show communication and teaching skills

Commented [A28]: Can potentially expand on this by mentioning an example of what you have achieved in this role

Commented [A29]: It is better to specify the topic of a presentation

Commented [A30]: Not necessary and does sound forced. Removing it improves fluency

Commented [A31]: Reorganising this sentence can make it clearer

Football is my favourite sport ~~and~~; I play with the team afterschool, ~~which has enhanced my teamwork and leadership skills~~. I also enjoy kayaking and rock climbing. To unwind, I enjoy playing video games. ~~In my spare time, I like to play the violin and have achieved level 6 and regularly perform in the school orchestra. I regularly perform in the school orchestra and have achieved level 6 in violin.~~

Commented [A32]: This sentence can be improved by focussing on the skill you have learnt

Commented [A33]: Can be removed to save on characters. You have cited numerous extracurricular activities and this one appears to have the fewest transferable skills.

Commented [A34]: Can be restructured to improve fluency as the original sentence had 2 mentions of 'and'

~~I believe~~ I am a diligent, dedicated and compassionate ~~person-student~~ that is committed to improving the lives of others. I look forward to studying Medicine and tackling future challenges and, even though I know it is a tough career, ~~I'm I am~~ certain that ~~the stress of the profession will be greatly outweighed by my satisfaction it is the right profession for me~~.

Commented [A35]: Removing it improves fluency and sounds more confident

Commented [A36]: Should be 'I am' to be formal

Commented [A37]: This sentence was too long and was adequately punchy without this part

2. Personal statement performance: summary

Key			
I	II	III	IV
Excellent An outstanding area	Good	Satisfactory	Poor Requires improvement

Quality	I	II	III	IV
Initial impression given to reader. Use of a persuasive style.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Breadth and depth of topics. Includes the use of supporting evidence e.g. outside reading.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Spelling, grammar and punctuation.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Logical organisation with a clear sequence of arguments.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Personal statement fluency, reflecting effective transition between topics.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Strong and consistent focus on the chosen subject.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Use of appropriate words that serve the applicant's purpose.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Professional and appropriate tone.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comments	<p>Your personal statement displays your enthusiasm coupled with an understanding of what the career entails. These could be further fleshed out by more clearly focussing on skills you have learnt and how they relate to medicine. In addition, specific examples of your experiences during your placements would not go amiss, particularly with your brief mention of a GP placement. The personal statement was over the character limit, so several suggestion were made to reduce its length.</p>			

Common personal statement mistakes

Personal statement quality – to avoid	Present?
Use of cliché	☑
Repetitive language	☑
Use of obscure words	☒
Use of contractions or slang e.g. didn't instead of did not, Uni instead of university.	☑
Evidence of exaggeration or bragging	☒
Very long sentences	☒
Use of humour or quotes – these may give off the wrong impression and tend to be overused	☒
Comments	<p>Overall, you have done well in avoiding common mistakes. When present, they only appeared once or twice in the personal statement. The most important setback to correct is the opening sentence, which contains the 'Ever since a young age...' cliché. Towards the end of the personal statement, there was a tendency to repeatedly use 'I' in sentences, although it was not excessive. A few contractions are present, which should be removed to maintain the formal tone.</p>

Personal statement essentials

Personal statement quality - required	Present?
Appropriate introduction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Evidence of interest and skills	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Evidence of extracurricular activities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Appropriate conclusion	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4000 characters or less	<input type="checkbox"/>
47 lines or less	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. Summary and concluding recommendations

A good personal statement that has the potential to transform into an exceptional literary piece. You provide a logical structure and display a wide variety of skills, experiences and activities. A key aspect that could be improved is the introduction, which is currently clichéd and not particularly eye-catching.

It is clear that you are passionate about Medicine and your extensive work experiences reflect this. A more detailed discussion of what you learnt from these experiences and any specific cases would enhance your personal statement. In particular, your GP placement is only briefly mentioned and could be further elaborated; for instance, you may describe the more personal nature of the specialty in contrast to a hospital setting.

You briefly mentioned your subscription to the Student BMJ – elaborating on an article or topic that you found interesting would provide the dual role of fleshing out your interests as well as displaying your insight into current medical findings. In addition, highlighting the specific skills you have developed during your extracurricular activities would help in linking these to your suitability for your chosen career.

The personal statement was over the character limit. Therefore, the review additionally focussed on several ways to reduce its length to make it suitable for the UCAS submission.

4. For reference: original personal statement

Ever since I had my first work experience, my love for medicine continued to grow and I have become certain that this career path is the right one for me. The dynamic and everlasting nature of this career instantly drew me towards the beauty of medicine. As such I find the complex nature of the human body truly, remarkable and using my knowledge to relief those suffering would be by far the greatest fulfilment I could achieve.

One of the first experiences I had with medicine was at a work placement at Hammersmith hospital. In the A&E department, I helped bring equipment to the doctors and nurses and the huge variety of cases that were present intrigued me. I spent my time shadowing and asking doctors about their experiences and observing the way patients are treated.

Observing the staff was a truly inspiring experience. For instance, a surgical operation for a skin wound highlighted how such an routine operation could vastly improve the quality of life of patients. Nevertheless, I learnt that doctors are under a lot of stress and need to meet tight deadlines while also working long hours, however, I feel that it is worth giving up some of my time to save the lives of many others.

During my work experience at an oncology ward I was introduced to the fascinating world of organised multidisciplinary teams that require effective communication and cooperation. I admired the concentration and precision of a consultant performing surgery to treat lung cancer. Following surgery, the patient was reminded of the various lifestyle choices and preventative measures that could improve his quality of life. Such a message was later conveyed by the doctor to the patient, linking back to my GP placement, and emphasised the holistic nature of the profession. The experience also exposed me to the patience, ability to handle pressure and communication skills required to be an effective doctor.

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Delving deeper into medical issues, I completed a project on atrial arrhythmia, a common cardiovascular condition that is the most common abnormal heart rhythm worldwide. To gain further insight into the medical field, I am a subscriber of the Student BMJ, which has allowed me to explore topics ranging from embryogenesis to neurodegeneration. I have been volunteering for the past eight months at my local primary school, where I would help teachers by carrying out tasks for them, ranging from listening to children reading to making sure that all their toys have been collected. I have further improved those skills by being part of the school council, where I am a representative of my form class and present their ideas on their behalf. I am also a member of the school's medical society, where I would give a presentation on a medical topic I have researched. I sold food and drinks to raise money for charity in school, which has boosted my confidence.

Football is my favourite sport and I play with the team afterschool. I also enjoy kayaking and rock climbing. To unwind, I enjoy playing video games. In my spare time, I like to play the violin and have achieved level 6 and regularly perform in the school orchestra.

I believe I am a diligent, dedicated and compassionate person that is committed to improving the lives of others. I look forward to studying Medicine and tackling future challenges and, even though I know it is a tough career, I'm certain that the stress of the profession will be greatly outweighed by my satisfaction.