



**MEDSCHOOLCOACH**  
helping you achieve your medical school dreams

# the personal statement

Sahil Mehta MD



it's more  
important  
than you  
think

this is your chance  
to separate  
yourself, sell  
yourself, start your  
interview right and  
get into medical  
school

I COULD  
TRAVEL.  
BUT ONLY BACKWARDS  
AND WITH DAVID  
TENNANT.

FAVOURITE  
IS 'ROCK N ROLL  
E'. IT'S BY DAVID  
BOWE / YOU SHOULD  
LISTEN TO THE LYRICS.

I'M MORE  
PROUD OF MY  
FRIENDS THAN  
MYSELF ALWAYS

I'VE GOT A  
LOVE/HATE RELA-  
TIONSHIP WITH THE  
VIEW FROM THIS  
WINDOW

Sometimes I realise time  
hasn't been looking  
my greatest / beautiful /  
I shall try for October.  
Be there then, I like the  
weather.  
I wish there'd be this atmosphere  
in everyone, though.

THIS IS  
ME

I TOOK  
BRONZE MEDALS  
AFTER TWO WEEKS  
TRAINING. (I have never been  
to the Olympics)

GO  
HANNAH  
GO!

I LISTEN  
TO RADIO  
FOUR. (See those numbers  
I don't like music. Music is  
the last thing I see)

SOME OF THESE  
ROCKS ARE  
LIKE  
COMFORT BLANKETS.



# sell

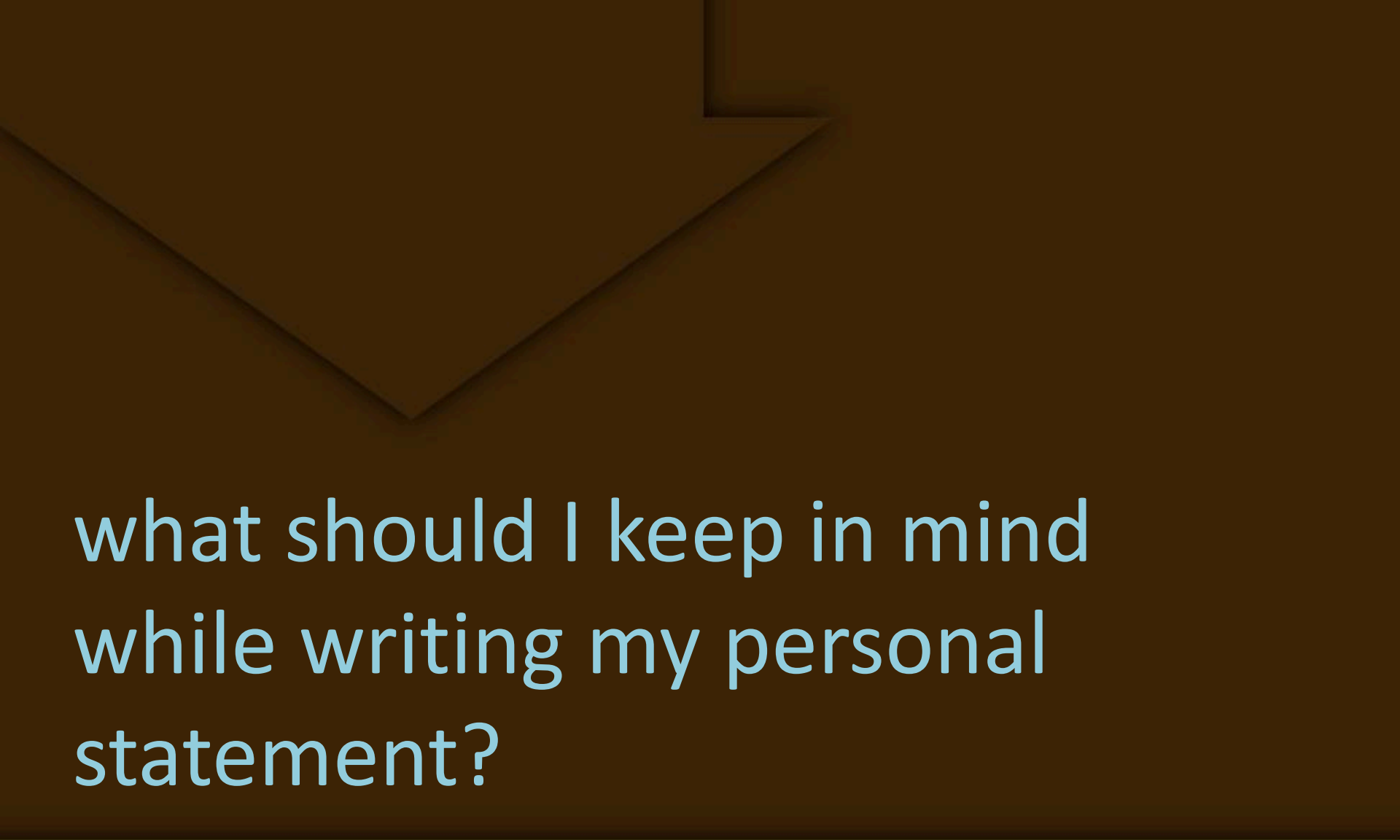
the only place on your application where you can deviate from the norm

# separate

many applicants have your MCAT scores and GPAs and even experiences, but no one else has your personal statement

# interview

your personal statement will be the starting point for your interview



what should I keep in mind  
while writing my personal  
statement?

three goals:

your goals

don't get yourself rejected

sell yourself

show them why medicine



# don't get yourself rejected

## Never do this

- Mention your GPA
- Mention your MCAT score
- Make a typo
- Make a spelling mistake
- Name drop
- Mention the research award you won
- Make mistakes in medical knowledge

## Almost never do this

- Write in the third person
- Say “I want to go into medicine because I want to help people”
- List your qualities
- List your extracurricular activities

## Try to Avoid

- Talking about your third cousin's roommate who was hospitalized
- Mentioning how you want to be a doctor since you were in the womb
- Talking about one bad grade



the good personal statement

an interesting writing style

a great introduction

personal stories



# an interesting writing style

Boring:

"I went to Columbia University and majored in Biomedical Engineering"

Interesting:

" $x$  equals negative  $b$  plus or minus the square root... these were the formulas that dominated my life for many years"

# an interesting writing style

## Interesting Introductions

- "I am a geek..."
- "As I stared out the window I saw a city that was as foreign as any I had ever been to..."
- "I grew up on a tomato farm..."

## Boring Introductions

- "Ever since I was born, I loved science"
- "I knew I wanted to be a doctor since I was young"
- "I always wanted to help people"
- "The human body is very interesting to me"

# the medical school personal statement

the specifics

# the specific question

*Use the personal comments essays as an opportunity to distinguish you from other applicants. Some questions you may want to consider while writing this essay are:*

- Why have you selected the field of medicine?*
- What motivates you to learn more about medicine?*
- What do you want medical schools to know about you that hasn't been disclosed in another section of the application?*

*In addition, you may wish to include information such as: special hardships, challenges or obstacles that may have influenced your educational pursuits. Commentary on significant fluctuations in your academic record that are not explained elsewhere in your application”*

# the specifics

*Length:* 5300 characters (MD) or 4500 characters (DO)

- Every space, period, letter counts as a character

*Formatting:* AMCAS is a plain text box.

- Do not type directly into the box (this will lead to spelling errors)
- Type the essay in Microsoft Word
- Save the file as a \*.rtf file

*Proofing:* AMCAS will export your file as a PDF

- Read your entire essay on the PDF for formatting errors
- Apostrophes, quotations and line breaks often come out wrong

Your essay should be looked over by:

- a friend
- your family
- an M.D.

let others help

ed and ...  
biased, so that we can  
is the best conclusion from the data  
every tree in our forest type has an equal probability  
led more than one.  
data are a tape measure, drag line, diameter tape measure,  
techniques to collect this data, the point-quarter method and the  
ologies will use random sample points that are chosen using  
random number table to select locations along the main



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# questions to ask yourself

What's special, unique, distinctive and/or impressive about you and your life story?

Give them something to remember you by, and more importantly, sometime that will make them want to meet you.

# questions to ask yourself

What details of your life (personal or family problems, history, people or events that have shaped you or influenced your goals) might help the committee better understand you or help set you apart from other applicants?

Let the committee know what has shaped you into the person you are and where you come from

# questions to ask yourself

Have you had to overcome any unusual obstacles or hardships (for example, economic, familial, or physical) in your life?

Again, let the committee know what you have come out of and where you have come from. This will tell them a lot about the kind of person that you are and your ability to endure. (b/c med school is all about endurance)

# more questions to ask yourself

What personal characteristics (for example, integrity, compassion, persistence) do you possess that would improve your prospects for success in the field or profession? Is there a way to demonstrate or document that you have these characteristics?

Are there any gaps or discrepancies in your academic record that you should explain (great grades but mediocre MCAT scores, for example, or a distinct upward pattern to your GPA if it was only average in the beginning)?

When did you become interested in this field and what have you learned about it (and about yourself) that has further stimulated your interest and reinforced your conviction that you are well suited to this field? What insights have you gained?

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- Unlimited editing & advising
- Medical school admissions essay editing by advisors who have read hundreds of them
- Honest feedback from advisors who know what admissions committees and medical schools look for in a personal statement
- Guidance for every step of the process – from brainstorming to the final grammar check
- Typical 48 hour turn around times on edits
- MedSchoolCoach's Guide to Writing the Medical School Personal Statement E-Book

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