

Note: These guidelines are specific to the 2010 school year.

University of Washington, Seattle

1. Personal Statement (required)

The Personal Statement is our best means of getting to know you and your best means of creating a context for your academic performance. When you write your personal statement, tell us about those aspects of your life that are not apparent from your academic record. Tell us about the experiences that don't show up on your transcript:

- A character-defining moment
- The cultural awareness you've developed
- A challenge faced
- A personal hardship or barrier overcome

Directions: Choose A or B. Recommended length: 500-650 words.

- A. Discuss how your family's experience or cultural history enriched you or presented you with opportunities or challenges in pursuing your educational goals.
- B. Tell us a story from your life, describing an experience that either demonstrates your character or helped to shape it.

TIPS:

- Some of the best statements are written as personal stories. We welcome your imaginative interpretation.
- You may define experience broadly. For example, in option B, experience could be a meeting with an influential person, a news story that spurred you to action, a family event, or something that might be insignificant to someone else that had particular meaning for you. If you don't think that any one experience shaped your character, don't worry. Simply choose an experience that tells us something about you.

2. Short Response (required)

Directions: Choose one of the following two topics and write a short essay. Maximum length of 250 words.

- A. The University of Washington seeks to create a community of students richly diverse in cultural backgrounds, experiences, and viewpoints. How would you contribute to this community?
- B. Describe an experience of cultural difference or insensitivity you have had or observed. What did you learn from it?

TIP:

- You may define culture broadly in Topic #2. For example, it may include ethnicity, customs, values, and ideas, all of which contribute to experiences that students can share with others in college. As you reply to this question, reflect on what you have learned about yourself and your society from an experience of cultural difference.

Western Washington University

We believe potential is measured by more than grades and test scores. Help us get to know you- what you're good at, what inspires you, what you stand for, and why Western is the right place for you to continue your education. *Please note: the number of questions you respond to is up to you.*

- If you are interested in a particular academic area, tell us why. Do you have a dream job in mind? If so, we'd love to hear about it.
- Tell us how culture- either your own or your experience with others- has affected your outlook on the world. How have you contributed to a multicultural community and/or how will you promote multiculturalism at Western or in your career? (*Required for applicants who wish to be considered for the Multicultural Achievement Program/MAP Scholarship*).
- What do you want to make sure the Admissions Committee knows about you? (Explanation of academic record, passions/interests, memorable experiences, defining moments, etc.)