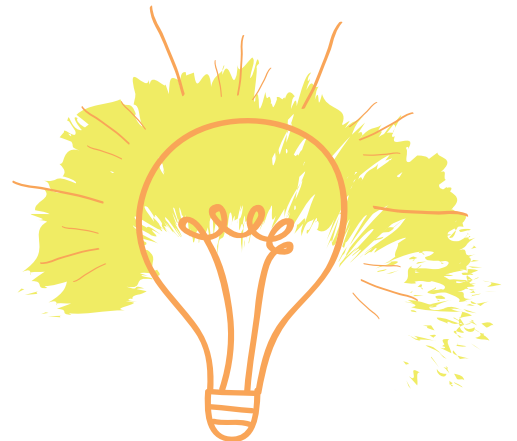
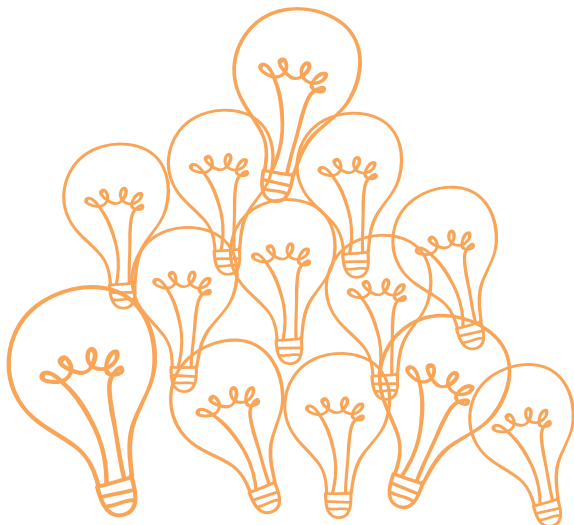


# PERSONAL STATEMENT BRAINSTORMING



# LET'S GET BRAINSTORMIN' BUT FIRST, A MADLIB!

Before you begin digging deep, loosen up those brain muscles by completing this fun madlib. Remember those?! First, assign a word to each of the below categories. Afterwards, turn the page to see what you get. No peeking!

1. *Noun* \_\_\_\_\_

2. *Age* \_\_\_\_\_

3. *Verb* \_\_\_\_\_

4. *Memory (That time you...)* \_\_\_\_\_

5. *Feeling* \_\_\_\_\_

6. *College Major* \_\_\_\_\_

7. *Noun* \_\_\_\_\_

8. *Top Choice College* \_\_\_\_\_

9. *Animal* \_\_\_\_\_

10. *Verb* \_\_\_\_\_

11. *Food* \_\_\_\_\_

12. *Gerund (-ing word)* \_\_\_\_\_

13. *Club/Organization* \_\_\_\_\_

14. *Place* \_\_\_\_\_

15. *Favorite Expression* \_\_\_\_\_

16. *Adjective* \_\_\_\_\_

17. *Noun* \_\_\_\_\_

# LET'S GET STARTED!

Oh em gee! You're applying to college. It's finally time for you to become a **1.** \_\_\_\_\_. You've spent the last **2.** \_\_\_\_\_ years preparing for this moment, and you are ready to **3.** \_\_\_\_\_. Yes! You are almost there.

Remember when you **4.** \_\_\_\_\_? You felt **5.** \_\_\_\_\_. It made such an impact on your life that you're thinking of pursuing **6.** \_\_\_\_\_. By doing so, you're thinking that you could probably save **7.** \_\_\_\_\_. **8.** \_\_\_\_\_ doesn't even know how lucky they are that you want to go to their school. Then again, every other **9.** \_\_\_\_\_ is probably thinking the same thing. How can you make yourself stand out?

Should you **10.** \_\_\_\_\_ outside of the admissions office window singing the 10 different ways you can make **11.** \_\_\_\_\_ or the strange affinity for **12.** \_\_\_\_\_ you've developed over the years? Hm. Let's table those ideas for a second. Hey, what about that time you really took charge and lead **13.** \_\_\_\_\_ through the scary trails behind **14.** \_\_\_\_\_. Actually, someone might have run into some poison ivy, so maybe not.

Well, looks like you've got more ideating to do. **15.** \_\_\_\_\_! Tutoring Ninjas to the rescue! Thank goodness you have **MeriEducation's Personal Statement Brainstorming Workbook** in front of you. Spend some time with this, and get thoughtful. Dig deep into your memories and see if you can bring up some **16.** \_\_\_\_\_ nuggets about your life, your character, your ambitions, and maybe even your **17.** \_\_\_\_\_. Go ahead - You might surprise yourself!

Good luck rockstars! You can do it!!

# GET PERSONAL WITH YOUR SELF!

Sit down and answer this questionnaire about yourself. Use the information that comes flowing out of your memory to help you brainstorm potential topics for your personal statement.



If you had someone write a biography about yourself, what 5 childhood memories would they need to include?



What were 2-3 major turning points in your life? Are these events that made you realize that you were going in the right direction, or did they make you realize that something needed to change?



If you had to describe yourself in 2-3 words, what would those words be? For each, list at least 1 event that characterizes this trait.

What are 3-5 of your proudest moments or accomplishments?



What are 3-5 of your lowest moments or failures? For each, explain how you came back from them, and what you learned.

List your favorite things in life (orgs/clubs, objects, places, activities, people, food, etc)?

List 2-3 people that you respect and admire.



Ask your parents for 3 - 5 events that they will never forget.

