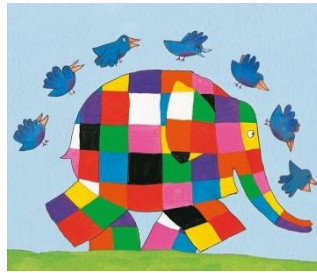


Personal statement

stand out from the crowd !

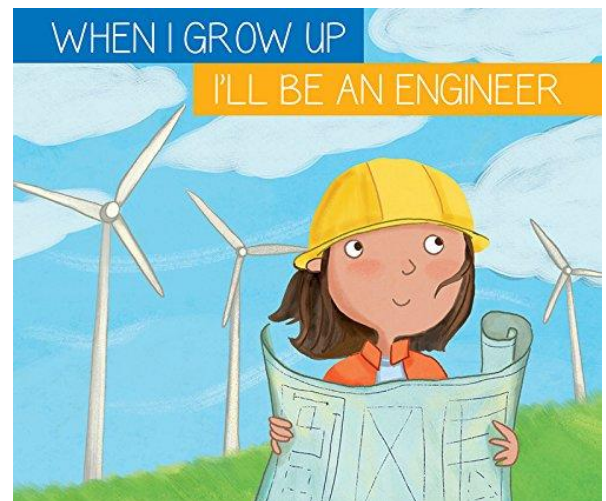


Useful online resources

• "How to write your undergraduate personal statement", UCAS (UK)	@ https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/how-write-ucas-undergraduate-personal-statement
• "Tips for writing your personal statement", The Complete University Guide (UK)	@ https://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/student-advice/applying-to-uni/tips-for-writing-your-personal-statement
• "Writing the personal statement", Purdue University (US)	@ https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/job_search_writing/preparing_an_application/writing_the_personal_statement/index.html

1. PERSONAL BACKGROUND

- I am twenty.
- I am twenty-years old ≠ I am a twenty-yeare-old student.
- I was born in 2005 (révolu → V-ED !)
- I am the elder of 2 children/brothers/sisters. ≠ I am the eldest of 3 children/brothers/sisters.
- I have one older brother and two youngere sisters.
- I am the middle child in a family of 3 siblings.
- I come from Brest (prononcer « Brest » à la française !), in Western Brittany.
- I speak Breton fluently / as a second language.
- I have been living in Brest for the past 5 years.
- ≠ I lived in Morlaix for 5 years when I was a child.
- I used to live in the countryside, but now I live in the city / in a more urban area.
- I moved from Morlaix to Brest a few years ago.
- I am used to moving places.
- As I grew up by the seaside, ... / Having grown up close to the ocean, ...
- Since I was a child, I have dreamt of becoming a pilot.
- ≠ As a child, I dreamt of becoming a pilot.
- When asked what I wanted to BE when I grew up, I would answer...
- (question directe : « What do you want to BE when you grow up ? »)
- The most significant life lesson that my parents have passed on to me is that...



2. EDUCATION (NB : children are brought up at home # pupils/students are educated at school/university)

École maternelle	École primaire	Collège	Lycée	Études supérieures
NURSERY school (UK) kindergarten (US)	PRIMARY school (UK) ELEMENTARY school (US)	lower SECONDARY school (UK) junior HIGH school (US)	higher SECONDARY school (UK) senior HIGH school (US)	 HIGHER education COLLEGE = 1 st 3 years of university !

- to take an exam(ination) / to sit an exam(ination) ≠ to pass an examination (réussir, être reçu)
- to pass with honours (1st-class honours ≈ mention très bien)
- After completing secondary/high school, I took the « baccalauréat », which is the French diploma for entrance to higher education.
- I chose to major in sciences / I specialised in STE(A)M
- hands-on / practical-oriented ≠ theoretical courses
- fundamental ≠ applied science
- science-related topics



an **ENGINEER** (= « maker of engines ») → ~~ENGINEERING~~ → AN **ENGINEERING** SCHOOL
STE(A)M = science, technology, engineering, (arts,) and mathematics
~~computer science~~ / ~~IT (information technology)~~

« Classes préparatoires » : ~~prep~~ school

a two-year POST-SECONDARY PROGRAMME in advanced math, physics and engineering to prepare for admission to French GRADUATE SCHOOLS.

- « Preparatory classes » offer an opportunity to get a well-rounded education
- the curriculum covers a broad/extensive range of subjects
- to **be admitted** IN a school / to **get** INTO a school / to **enter** IN a school / to **join** a school → to **enroll** IN a school (*s'inscrire*) → to **attend** a school
- a boarding student (*un interne*) – a student residence (*un internat*)

3. EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES & INTERESTS

- I play the guitar / the piano / the cello / the drums
- I PLAY IN rugby / IN football / IN basketball / IN tennis / IN badminton / IN hockey / IN golf / IN chess
- I DO ballet / athletics / gymnastics / cycling / swimming / sailing / rock-climbing / horseriding / windsurfing
- I am a member of a sports team / a sporting club
- I have a part-time job / I work part-time - I am involved with a charity / I do some volunteer work (*je fais du bénévolat*)
- I have taken a first-aid course - I plan to take a gap-year

4. QUALITIES, SKILLS, EXPERIENCES & AMBITIONS

hard-working/industrious (*travailleur.se*) – thoughtful (*réfléchi.e*) – articulate (*sachant bien s'exprimer*) – outgoing (*sociable, ouvert.e*)
resourceful (*débrouillard*) – reliable (*fiable, sur qui on peut compter*) – willing to take responsibility FOR tasks – self-reliant (*sachant se débrouiller seul.e*) – proactive (*ayant le sens de l'initiative*) – good AT meeting deadlines (*respectant les délais*) – a team player (*qui a l'esprit d'équipe*)

- I am proficient IN a wide range of computer software... - I am thoroughly familiar WITH... - An inquiring mind helps me in my day-to-day work.
- I often take the initiative to read around a subject outside of the classroom.

- I have learnt to manage heavy workloads
to handle stress
to cope under pressure.
- I have demonstrated that I am ready to...
- I have shown commitment and stamina.
- I have gained leadership experience.
- I will do my utmost to achieve my dreams.



- I want to contribute to society.
- I am keen to make a difference.
- I would like to make the world a better place.
- I hope to harness innovation to impact the world in a meaningful way.

