

## An example of a poor quality personal statement

The example below is of a weaker personal statement from an imaginary applicant applying for the secondary PGCE. The annotations show how it could be improved.

I am applying for a place on the PGCE Science course. I want to do this course because I love science and want to spend my days working on a subject that I love.

**Comment [M1]:** Expand on this further. This paragraph should really get your enthusiasm across and encourage the reader to continue reading! Why do you love science?

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As a young student, I always appreciated the way my science teachers at school described science as a fast paced, action filled discipline, prone to changing ideas and fascinating discoveries. I would value the opportunity to expand on their teachings and capture a young audience and educate them in such a significant field. My enthusiasm for my degree and Science in general will be portrayed in my approach to the children, and my passion for gaining knowledge will support me in teaching science in an enjoyable fashion.

**Comment [M2]:** How will you teach students in an enjoyable way? Give examples, could make reference to good practice you have observed in schools that you have worked in.

I was a member of the science society at university, where the group would meet once a week to discuss new discoveries in science. This helped me to stay up to date with current changes in science which will be very valuable to me when teaching science- as it is an area which is constantly changing.

**Comment [M3]:** Although this is good, try and include other non science hobbies to show that you are a well rounded person. Maybe you enjoy travelling or love to learn new languages? Make sure you link your hobby to teaching, in the skills that you develop. For example, if you love to travel, it means you meet a wide variety of people, so you are used to communicating with people different to yourself- useful in teaching where communication skills are so important.

I think that I have the skills and attributes required of a teacher. I am hoping your institution will provide me with the opportunity to tap in to these skills and qualify as a Teacher of Science.

**Comment [M4]:** What are they?? List them and give examples of how you have them.

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Other comments- This statement is far too short- it is only 200 words long. If you have a 400 word limit, make sure you use every single word, and use the limit to really sell yourself. Similarly, do not exceed the word limit- it will make the reader think that you do not know how to follow simple instructions.

Additionally, the content needs review. There is no reference to previous work history. Even though you will have written about it in a different section, use this statement as a chance to expand on what you did, and what it has taught you about teaching/ what skills you have developed.