

## WRITING C

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### **Your essay should:**

- start with an attention grabbing lead or hook--an anecdote, quote, question, or engaging description or scene.
- possess a clear theme, thesis or purpose.
- be clearly and succinctly written.
- use concrete and specific illustrative examples that paint a picture in the reader's mind of what distinguishes you from other applicants.
- convey what excites and interests you.

**\*Note:** Start early, read the prompt carefully, write multiple drafts, and show your essay to multiple pairs of eyes. The content of your essay is not the only thing being judged; your writing proficiency is also very important.

### **Who can help me with writing my Personal Statement?**

- Work with faculty members. Your faculty advisors and mentors will be most familiar with you and your chosen field of study.
- The consultants in the Writing Center can help. Schedule an appointment online by going to: <https://clarku.mywconline.com/> or by calling the Writing Center at (508) 793-7405 (on campus x7405).
- In addition to your LEEP Advisor, there are staff members in the LEEP Center dedicated to helping you. Attend a LEEP Center sponsored Writing Your Personal Statement Workshop, or email [jrobert@clarku.edu](mailto:jrobert@clarku.edu).

### **The Personal Statement Checklist:**

- \_\_\_ My personal statement, or letter of intent, addresses the specific questions or requirements.
- \_\_\_ My hook, or lead, is interesting and original.
- \_\_\_ The organization and development of the essay is logical, fluid and effective.
- \_\_\_ My use of language and diction is precise, concise and college level.