5 considerations as you draft your personal statement:

1. **Length**
   The AMCAS personal statement character limit is 5,300 characters, including spaces, which is roughly one single-spaced page.

2. **Timing**
   Give yourself plenty of time to draft your personal statement. You will want time to walk away, receive feedback, and edit.

3. **Feeling stuck?**
   Start in the middle. The introduction and conclusion can be a challenging place to start. Pick an experience and start writing.

4. **Organization**
   Find a balance between narrative and evidence-based paragraphs. Be purposeful with your words and avoid typographical errors.

5. **Connect with your audience**
   The admissions committee may not meet you in person; they may only hear your voice in your written work. Use descriptive language and detail to show them your passion for medicine.

5 questions to ask yourself when beginning your personal statement:

1. **Why medicine?**
   Share in depth how becoming a physician is the path to help you to achieve your personal goals.

2. **How do you know?**
   Identify specific examples that have been impactful for you and how they have shaped you into a person who wants to care for others.

3. **What's your story?**
   Take the application process as an opportunity to share what you've learned, why medicine is the right career fit for you, and how you can advocate for others.

4. **What is your motivation?**
   Pay attention to what you pay attention to. What brings you joy? What can you rely on to keep you motivated along the journey to medical school and beyond?

5. **Why you?**
   What experiences have you had that can demonstrate that you are committed to service, a good teammate, compassionate, etc.?
### WHY MEDICINE?

List 5 reasons why you want to be a physician *(complete sentences/detailed thoughts)*

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What common themes do you notice in the reasons you listed above?

Looking back at these 5 reasons and the common themes that you noticed, describe why you want to be a physician in 1-2 sentences. This can help with really driving home a clear reason for the “Why Medicine?” question the committee is looking for.

### HOW DO YOU KNOW?

List 3 moments when you felt reassured/certain that you wanted to become a physician – write a paragraph about that experience – what did you experience, how did it feel, why was it so impactful, what did you learn/take away from that moment? Ex: Could be from shadowing, working with patients, volunteering, etc.

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### WHY YOU?

What qualities do you want to have as a physician? Can you connect those qualities to any of your answers above?

Take a moment to reflect on your responses above – think about what has kept you curious, motivated, and encouraged to become a physician. Looking at all of this information, think about why you want to be a physician and what moments/experiences have led you to that conclusion. Start writing – do not get caught up on exact wording – just get your thoughts on paper – then you can enter the editing phase.