

## Suggested Outline for Personal Statement Short-Answers

Before you start outlining, list a few of the “narrative anchors” that you came up with while watching the session:

Then put together your outline using the following format:

- 1) **Hook:** Jot down a few ideas for how you’d eventually like to open your essay with a bit of storytelling. Remember that this storytelling needs to relate in some way to the rest of the essay, i.e. don’t back yourself into a narrative corner. When you sit down to write your first draft, this will be roughly one paragraph, so keep in mind that you don’t have much space.
  
- 2) **Transition to substance:** In a line or two, how will you move from the storytelling of your hook to the actual “meat” of the document where you will be sharing several carefully-selected experiences from your educational and professional trajectory.
  
- 3) **Body:** List two or three transformative experiences *in chronological order* that fit the narrative you are trying to establish. Don’t forget to think about how you will transition from one topic to the next to avoid the “resume/cv in narrative form” effect! This will eventually amount to two or three paragraphs of your first draft.
  - a)
  
  - b)
  
  - c)
  
- 4) **Conclusion:** Up to this point, you’ve discussed your educational and professional trajectory up to and including where you are now. This is where you will discuss your future goals as they relate to the narrative. You will eventually devote roughly a paragraph to this in your first draft.