**What is the Personal Statement?**
The personal statement is more than just a mandatory part of your UC application; it's your chance to explain to college admissions readers why you are a good fit for their school. It's where you become an individual, and where you can share your personality, your goals, your experiences, and explain any opportunities or obstacles that have affected your academic record.

- It's one element considered in UC's comprehensive review of your application.
- It's an opportunity to provide information that gives readers context for your accomplishments.
- Adds clarity, depth, and meaning to information collected in other parts of your application.

**Where do I start?**
The personal statement is made up of two prompts; all applicants are required to answer both. You will be writing two essays in response to these prompts. The length of each response is up to you, but neither one should be less than 250 words nor the combination of both responses should not exceed 1,000 words.

Get familiar with the prompts. Learn what they are asking you and answer all parts of the question. Start by brainstorming possible essay topics and always make sure that you stick to one topic per response.

**Prompt 1** Describe the world you come from—for example, your family, community or school—and tell us how your world has shaped your dreams and aspirations.

**The Writing Process**
Try to follow these steps as you're working on your personal statement:

1. Brainstorm using levels of questions
2. Write a first draft
3. Get feedback. Give readers at least a week to respond.
4. Revise for organization, clarity, and meaning.
5. Proofread your close-to-final draft to