Essential Elements of a Personal Statement:
The Introduction, the Body, the Conclusion

The INTRODUCTION:

* grabs your reader's attention
* communicates your essay's controlling theme

The BODY PARAGRAPHS:

* typically, 2—4 paragraphs that develop your theme
* use concrete, vivid details (e.g., examples, personal experiences, etc.)
* ***demonstrate*** your claims about your skills, abilities, interests, and/or personal characteristics

* The final BODY paragraph contains your most significant, profound information. It might be the place where you explain how you changed or what you learned about yourself as a result of the experience(s) you've described.

The CONCLUSION:

In your conclusion you step back from the details and widen "the lens" on your theme. You might reaffirm your main point or refer back to it, but do not summarize or repeat what you've already said!

NOTE: The lines above DO NOT represent how long your paragraphs should be, nor do they mean that all your paragraphs should be the same length. They are shown here simply to represent the essential three elements of your personal statement: the introduction, body paragraphs, and conclusion.