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Learning beyond the Classroom

Ideas for how to learn outside
of the classroom which is
essential for your university
application!

Excellence: for each, for all



This is part of a poor personal statement

(note: this is an application for dentistry...)

'I also get involved in activities outside of school. I have been swimming for about 2 years. This is something I used to particularly enjoy as I used to set myself targets to reach and this taught me how to discipline myself and reach and sometimes fail targets but most importantly how to improve and better myself for the next week to come. I have had work experience working as a sale assistant in my local Sports Direct shop. Sometimes whilst arranging the shelves I imagine myself arranging people's teeth and placing each in the best position that the patient wants.'



This is part of an excellent personal statement

'To broaden my knowledge beyond the scope of the school curriculum, I have regularly attended lectures for the last three years at the ASI and RES where I have enjoyed asking questions and engaging in post-lecture discussions. Having read 'Management in 10 words', my particular interest in globalisation was stimulated by a great lecture given by Sir Terry Leahy in which he demonstrated the huge transnational monopoly Tesco has created and the strategies involved in managing the company in over 14 countries across the globe. This eye-opening experience encouraged me to read books such as Andrew Simm's 'Tescopoly' and Friedman's 'The World is Flat'.



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What are you going to do now to make your application special?

Here are some suggestions...

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Talks / Events

Royal Society: <http://royalsociety.org/events/> - Fellowship of the world's most eminent scientists and is the oldest scientific academy in continuous existence. Lectures are posted online.

www.ted.com - critically acclaimed, award-winning website featuring inspired talks from the world's leading thinkers - great for personal statements.

www.thersa.org/events - Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce. An organisation committed to finding innovative practical solutions to today's social challenges. The RSA host a number of fascinating events, which can also be viewed online.

www.humanism.org.uk - The British Humanist Association (BHA) is the national charity working on behalf of non-religious people who seek to live ethical and fulfilling lives on the basis of reason and humanity.



Think Tank Talks/Events

Institute of Economic Affairs: www.iea.org.uk - The IEA hold a wide range of events, with speakers ranging from Nobel Laureates to journalists and politicians, encouraging people to engage in the debate around ideas and their consequences.

Adam Smith Institute: www.adamsmith.org - its purpose was to educate the public about free markets and economic policy, and to inject sound ideas into the public debate.

Policy Exchange: www.policyexchange.org.uk – An educational charity whose mission is to develop and promote new policy ideas which deliver better public services, a stronger society and a more dynamic economy.

Demos: www.demos.co.uk - Demos produce original research, publish innovative thinkers and host thought-provoking events. Demos have spent 20 years at the centre of the policy debate, with an overarching mission to bring politics closer to people.

NESTA: www.nesta.org.uk - Nesta is an independent charity with a mission to help people and organisations bring great ideas to life. Some interesting events held with the innovators of tomorrow.

New Economics Foundation: www.neweconomics.org – The NEF promote innovative solutions to the major economic, environmental and social challenges of today. Plenty of interesting events worth attending.



University Lectures online

- Open University Podcasts: <http://podcast.open.ac.uk/> - wealth of video & podcasts to view on a range of topics.
- LSE Public Lectures: www.lse.ac.uk/publicEvents/eventsHome.aspx - The LSEs research and teaching span the full breadth of the social sciences, from economics, politics and law to sociology, anthropology, accounting and finance. A huge range of podcasts of previous lectures are available to download.
 - Harvard Lectures: <http://www.youtube.com/user/Harvard> - all available online
 - University of Warwick's Distinguished Lecture Series: <http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/newsandevents/events/distinguishedlecture> - brings public speakers of the highest calibre from the worlds of academia, business, the arts and civil society to our campus to share their thoughts and ideas. Lectures, including past ones, can be watched online.
 - UCL Lunch Hour Lectures: - http://events.ucl.ac.uk/calendar/tab:lunch_hour_lectures/ - streamed online between 1.15 to 1.55. Lunch Hour Lectures return in October 2013 with a new season of talks discussing: the science of laughter, Stonehenge, breastfeeding, time travel and lots more besides.
- Imperial College London: <http://www3.imperial.ac.uk/events> - wealth of events & previous lectures available online.