

Personal Essay Rubric

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| <p>PURPOSE/AUDIENCE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focuses on the purpose of maintaining a central idea (theme) • Narrows the topic; limits the essay to incidents and details that best communicate the writer’s purpose • Creates a title that captures the essence of the piece and creates reader interest | <p>5 4 3 2 1</p> |
| <p>IDEAS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contains a narrative, or storytelling part • Develops ideas by using relevant supporting details from life experiences • Describes emotions, thoughts, and actions to relate the life experiences • Highlights the writer’s reflection on the focused purpose • Employs an informal or conversational style of writing • Uses dialogue, indirect and direct, effectively • Uses sensory details | <p>5 4 3 2 1</p> |
| <p>ORGANIZATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writes an engaging lead • Places ideas and details in a meaningful order • Organizes essay into paragraphs • Uses transitions between ideas • Maintains coherence and unity • Concludes by revisiting the importance of the writer’s experience and the life lesson learned | <p>5 4 3 2 1</p> |
| <p>VOICE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses an individual voice and appropriate tone – humorous, reflective, serious | <p>5 4 3 2 1</p> |
| <p>SENTENCE FLUENCY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writes complete and varied sentences | <p>5 4 3 2 1</p> |

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| <p>WORD CHOICE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chooses language appropriate to audience and purpose • Writes in first person • Uses descriptive language to allow the reader to connect with the writer’s experience and reaction to it • Maintains consistence verb tense • Makes subjects and verbs agree • Employs correct usage | <p>5 4 3 2 1</p> |
| <p>CONVENTIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Spells correctly •Uses correct end punctuation, commas, quotation marks, apostrophes •Capitalizes correctly •Makes few errors in correctness which do not interfere with the meaning of piece •Conventional artistry is used to enhance meaning | <p>5 4 3 2 1</p> |

TOTAL: /35 = %