

PERSONAL ESSAY**DUE DATE:**

The personal essay is a great chance for you to explore an event from your life and try your hand at using imagery. Your goal is to convey to the reader the same emotions you felt during this event. The basic requirements are as follows:

- Relate an event or events from your life
- Use plenty of sensory details (sight, smell, sound, taste, touch)
- Try to create a theme or central idea in your essay

The main requirement is that the event is meaningful to you. Your goal is to convey that same meaning to your reader. Some personal essays are written about tragic events that are deeply emotional for the writer. Some are written about rites-of-passage moments. Some are humorous looks at growing up.

Here are some questions that might help get you thinking:

- What was an event that you felt was a rite-of-passage in your life?
- What is a time that you learned an important life lesson?
- What is an object that has a meaningful story attached to it? Describe the object and the story.
- Who is an important person in your life? Explain why this person is so important to you. Describe the person in great detail. Make sure to include specific stories that illustrate this person's significance.

The following generally do *not* lead to quality essays:

- "Funny" events that include too many inside jokes to be funny to anyone else
- Writing about a group of people or more than one person because the essay loses its focus
- Writing about a large period of time in great detail (An essay about your entire high-school career will lead to an unfocused essay. Focus on just one event.)
- Describing a person by using non-descriptive details like "She was great. She was the best ever. She changed my life" instead of giving sensory details about the person.

Paper Format: _____

Page Length Requirement: _____

Due Date: _____