



The Career Passport

The Personal Essay

Why Write the Personal Essay

- **To reinforce the writing of the five paragraph essay**
- **To reinforce the writing process**
- **To assist students in compiling the PEP (Personal Education Plan) documents**

When Would You Use The Personal Essay?

- **Students can use the personal essay when**
 - **Completing college admission applications**
 - **Completing scholarship applications**
 - **Completing job applications**
 - **Completing various club membership applications**

Selecting the Right Topic

- **The personal essay typically allows the writer to address something which reveals to the reader information about the writer not found from an application form or resume.**
- **The writer should select a topic which he/she feels may be asked in a particular application process.**

Potential Topics for the Personal Essay

- **What is the biggest misconception people have about you, and why do they view you this way?**
- **Evaluate a significant experience or achievement that has special meaning to you.**
- **Indicate a person who has had a significant influence on you, and describe that influence.**

Setting Up The Essay

- **Follow the five paragraph format.**
- **Introductory Paragraph should include the topic worded into a thesis (I.e. what you plan to prove in your essay about the topic.)**
- **Next you should mention the three main supportive points you will use to explain your thesis.**

Body Paragraphs

- **In each body paragraph thoroughly address each point being made. Consider descriptive writing, grammatical structure, and vocabulary. This is a way to show the reader something about you, as well as something about your writing ability.**

Concluding Paragraph

- **Review your thesis statement and the three areas/topics you discussed within the essay.**
- **Close with a statement about how this experience/person/topic allows the reader to understand more about you. Can also be a moral you learned from this experience.**



Career Passport Portfolios

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