

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Personal Narrative/College Essay Rubric

Formatting: 1-2 pages, double spaced? \_\_\_\_\_ out of 5 pts.  
 Proper MLA heading? \_\_\_\_\_ out of 3 pts.  
 Creative title? \_\_\_\_\_ out of 2 pts.

Focused on a single, specific incident? \_\_\_\_\_ out of 5 pts.  
 Incorporated “memorability factor”? \_\_\_\_\_ out of 5 pts.  
 Submitted rough draft with the final? (automatic 10% deduction)

Criteria	Clarity & Organization	Focus & Content	Creativity	Insight	Style	Grammar & Mechanics
<b>Advanced</b> (5)	Well organized, logical, and clearly articulated; connects ideas smoothly	Skillfully and thoroughly uses sensory details, dialogue, anecdotes, interior monologue, or other writing devices. Effectively addresses audience and uses appropriate tone	Interesting, witty storyline that has that extra special something☺	Shows elevated level of insight in terms of personal experience and how this will translate into life skills in regard to personal character, growth, reflection, and possibility	Sophisticated variety of sentences; rich word choice	Demonstrates a high level of proficiency in grammar and mechanics
<b>Approaching Advanced</b> (4)	Organized, logical, and clearly articulated; transitions often connect ideas smoothly	Occasionally uses sensory details, dialogue, anecdotes, interior monologue, or other writing devices. Demonstrates a general sense of audience and uses appropriate tone	Interesting storyline	Shows high level of insight in terms of personal experience and how this will translate into life skills in regard to personal character, growth, reflection, and possibility	Variety of sentences; effective word choice	Demonstrates proficiency in grammar and mechanics
<b>Proficient</b> (3)	Mainly organized, logical, and clearly articulate; transitions used to connect ideas	Uses some sensory details, dialogue, anecdotes, interior monologue, or other writing devices. Demonstrates a general sense of audience and uses appropriate tone	Storyline ranges from interesting to common throughout the piece	Shows adequate level of insight in terms of personal experience and how this will translate into life skills in regard to personal character, growth, reflection, and possibility	Some variety of sentences; appropriate word choice	Usually demonstrates proficiency in grammar and mechanics
<b>Basic</b> (2)	Lacks organization, logic, and clarity; transitions seldom used to connect ideas	Limited use of sensory details Demonstrates little sense of audience and tone	Idea is cliché without anything added to set it apart from the typical storyline or idea	Shows minimal level of insight	Mostly simple sentences; simple word choice	Inconsistently demonstrates proficiency in grammar and mechanics
<b>Below Basic</b> (1)	Not organized or clear; transitions are not used to connect ideas	Does not use sensory details Inappropriate sense of audience and tone	Idea is a copy of another work or is not a creative writing piece/personal essay	Shows lack of insight throughout paper; inability to perceive/interpret	Only simple sentences; inappropriate word choice	Grammar and mechanics are deficient

