**Personal Essay Assignment**

**Overview:**

A personal essay is either a story in which the author writes about a personal incident or experience that provided significant meaning or a lesson learned, or it is a personal opinion about some topic or issue that is important to the writer.

**Objectives:**

* Write an organized personal essay
* Practice using transition words and phrases in your writing
* Practice avoiding using colloquial language

Choose **ONE** of the following topics on which to base your writing:

1. Many of you feel that you have suffered numerous injustices during your high school career. Describe those injustices and their impact on you. Please keep all names anonymous.
2. Going to college is a significant decision that you have to make this year. Describe the factors that will help you to make this important choice. The factors that you discuss could be geographic, economic, personal or cultural.
3. Identify and describe three programs that you are considering applying for at College. Outline why these programs interests you as well as the pros and cons of each.

**Evaluation:** The following rubric will be used to assess your final piece of writing.

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| **Personal Essay Rubric** |  |

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|  | 4 | **3** | **2** | **1** |  |
| **Supporting Information**  | Evidence clearly supports the position and appeals to the reader through reason and logic; evidence is **sufficient**. | Evidence clearly supports the position and somewhat appeals to the reader through reason and logic; but there is **not enough evidence**. | Argument is supported by **limited evidence** and there is little appeal to the reader through reason and logic. | Evidence is **unrelated** to argument and there is no appeal to the reader through reason and logic. |  |
| **Organization** | Structure of work is **clearly** developed. Relevant anecdotes are utilized effectively. | Structure developed reasonably well, but **lacks clarity**. Anecdote is used. | Some attempt to structure the argument has been made, but the structure is **poorly developed**. Anecdote does not support argument. | There is a **total lack** of structure. Anecdote is not used. |  |
| **Transitions** | Transitions are used effectively. | Transitions are used somewhat effectively. | An attempt to use transitions has been made but their use does little to improve the writing’s coherence | There are few transitions used. |  |
| **Language Mechanics**  | Applies grammar, spelling, and punctuation with considerable accuracy and effectiveness.  | Applies grammar, spelling, and punctuation with some accuracy and effectiveness.  | Applies grammar, spelling, and punctuation with limited accuracy and effectiveness | Applies grammar, spelling, and punctuation with very little accuracy and effectiveness |  |
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**Title of Essay**

1. **Introduction**

Background information (interesting facts, statistics, rhetorical questions, context)

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1. **Paragraph 1**

Topic #1

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1. **Paragraph 2**

Topic #2

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Conclusion

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1. **Paragraph 3**

Topic #3

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Conclusion

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1. **Concluding Paragraph**

Explain the significance or importance of what you have written about. What have you learned? What conclusions can you make?

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