

### THE ENTRANCE/SCHOLARSHIP PERSONAL ESSAY (Student Assignment)

Choose one topic and respond. (400-word min., 700-word max.)

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Your personal statement should be exactly that — personal. This is your opportunity to tell about yourself — your hopes, ambitions, life experiences, and inspirations. Be open. Be reflective. Find your individual voice and express it honestly.  
*(borrowed from Univ. of California)*

*Topics borrowed from Stanford University*

- Some students have a background or story that is so central to their identity that they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.
  - Recount an incident or time when you experienced failure. How did it affect you, and what lessons did you learn?
  - Reflect on a time when you challenged a belief or idea. What prompted you to act? Would you make the same decision again?
  - Discuss an accomplishment or event, formal or informal, which marked your transition from childhood to adulthood within your culture, community, or family.
  - FHS students possess an intellectual vitality. Reflect on an idea or experience that has been important to your intellectual development.
  - What matters to you, and why?
  - Tell about a personal quality, talent, accomplishment, contribution or experience that is important to you. What about this quality or accomplishment makes you proud and how does it relate to the person you are?
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#### Learning Targets

- A. Define a specific topic with a **main idea or thesis statement** that supports an identifiable purpose.
- B. Purposely choose **precise and varied words** and phrases that are descriptive and technical.
- C. Generate **strong feeling, energy, individuality and sincerity**; reveal the writer's perspective.
- D. Vary **sentence lengths and beginnings** to create flow.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

period: \_\_\_\_\_

Attach this document to your essay submission.

Refer to the anchor chart in the classroom to identify the craft moves that you intentionally use in your personal essay. Identify 4 of these moves in the chart below. Highlight and place the corresponding letters on your essay to show evidence of the move.

HIGHLIGHT & PLACE LETTER ON YOUR ESSAY	CRAFT MOVE
<b>A (pink)</b>	
<b>B (yellow)</b>	
<b>C (blue)</b>	
<b>D (green)</b>	

A. Explain which one of the identified craft moves provides evidence of your finest work.

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B. Why is this move effective?

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C. What else do you want to draw to your reader's attention?

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