

Standard 1.12 Personal Essay (Expressive Writing)

In personal essays, students make connections between experience and ideas

Criterion	5 Exceeds	4 Meets (Accomplished)	3 Nearly Meets (Intermediate)	2 Below Standard (Basic)	1 Far Below (Limited)
PURPOSE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • topic • focus / controlling idea • context/ background for reader as needed throughout paper 	Meets Score 4 PLUS one or more of following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • focus may be particularly insightful and convincing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • topic / concrete occasion / experience clearly established • focus is clear connection between the occasion and the reflection which develops with the piece (may be a statement, a question, or multiple perspectives on the occasion / experience) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • may be almost all occasion / experience with little reflection • focus may take form of thesis statement being explained rather than being reflected upon • focus which makes some connection between occasion / experience and reflection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • occasion / experience may be very brief • focus which makes only weak connection between occasion and reflection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • no occasion / experience beyond title • little or no reflection
ORGANIZATION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • overall structure * introduction * conclusion * transitions * logical progression of ideas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • may have unusual but highly effective structure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clear beginning , middle, end • effective transitions • logical, effective progression / arrangement of ideas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • beginning , middle, end • some transitions • logical progression / arrangement of ideas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • may have gaps or go off-track 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • little or no organization (reader may not be able to follow writer's thinking) • very brief
DETAILS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • accurate facts, evidence, ideas, information to support purpose 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • metaphoric language • deeply reflective • reflection may be expressed in deepening insight / wonder / speculation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • precise, concrete details to describe occasion / experience • precise reflective details / ideas • description or reflection may take variety of forms: images, comparing, connecting, and / or interpreting • reflection which includes both personal feelings and broader / more abstract ideas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • some precise, concrete details • some reflective details / ideas • reflection may omit personal feelings or broader / more abstract ideas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • details may be lists or too-broad general statements • very few details in occasion / experience and/ or reflection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • no details or repetitive details
STYLE / VOICE / TONE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • word choice, sentence structure/ variety to create chosen effect and engage reader 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sophisticated word choice and/or sentence structure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • precise (not vague or general) word choice • variety of sentence patterns • tone consistent and well-suited to purpose 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • appropriate word choice • may not have enough variety in sentence patterns • tone well-suited to purpose, but may be inconsistent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • basic word choice • word choice may not fit tone • awkward or repetitious sentences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • very simple word choice • inappropriate tone • many awkward and/or repetitious sentences