

Personal Essay Tips

Introduction:

- ✓ Starts with a snapshot of a challenge/inspiration
- ✓ Catches the reader's attention
- ✓ Describe something that sets you apart from others
- ✓ States a thesis and gives clear direction/purpose

Body paragraphs/Academic:

- ✓ Discuss academic experience
- ✓ Course work taken
- ✓ What you learned and how you were influenced

Body paragraphs/Extra curricular:

- ✓ Special interests/sports/clubs
- ✓ Volunteer/tutor work
- ✓ State what you learned from each

Body paragraphs/field and goals:

- ✓ State reasons for choosing the school/program
- ✓ Reasons for choosing the program/field of interest
- ✓ Future goals

Conclusion/Closing:

- ✓ Close strongly
- ✓ Return to your opening/sum up main areas
- ✓ Indicate your strengths

Mechanics:

- ✓ Spelling/punctuation
- ✓ Grammar/word usage
- ✓ Transitions/paragraph format