

What's Next? Life After High School Writing Assignment

Overview: *What is next?* You have been hearing this question frequently these last few weeks. You may not know exactly what you will do next, but you need to have an idea, and more important you need to be able to assess who you are and how prepared you are at this point. You need to know your strengths and weaknesses, your foundation (where you came from), and where you are headed. You need to have an idea of some of these things in order to be prepared for *what is next*. For this writing assignment you will be asked to give your personal statement; a personal statement is an opportunity to tell who you are, your achievements, where you come from, your dreams and aspirations. It is your chance to shine.

Directions: write a personal statement essay that shows the reader who you are. Use specific details and descriptions to allow the reader to see **you**, to hear **you**. You should address one/some of the questions below. You do not need to address all of them. You may focus on one or a few, but the key thing is to show who you are and where you might want to go.

- Who/what made you who you are today? (family, community, school) Describe how that world shaped your dreams.
- How have you prepared for the next stage of your life? Is it enough? What do you need to improve or learn today to succeed tomorrow?
- Is there an important event/experience or accomplishment that has helped define you, and how will it help you in the next stage of life?
- Describe a personal quality or talent that is important to you. What about this quality/talent makes you proud and how does it relate to the person you are?
- How will you leave your mark on the world?
- What do you believe? (explain your personal philosophy and how it developed)

Essay Requirements:

- 900-1200 words
- Single spaced
- 12 point font (nothing fancy)
- Title
- Headings on the left side of paper (MLA style)

First& 2nd Draft due: _____ (35pts) Final Draft due: _____(100pts)

Rubric: You will be graded in the following areas:

- ✓ **Focus & Organization:** Is there a sense of a beginning, middle and end? Does the essay, stay on topic and use supporting details? Is there detailed focus on experiences, background, events, persons, etc.?
- ✓ **Clarity & Voice:** Does it make sense? Does the writer's voice convey the writer's personality? Is the essay engaging? Does the writer shine, and leave a memorable mark?
- ✓ **Depth:** Is the writing thoughtful and honest? Do we learn something about the writer?
- ✓ **Originality:** Does the writer avoid clichés and generalities? Are there vivid details, fresh word choice, and strong verbs?
- ✓ **Correctness:** Is writing free from grammar, spelling and punctuation errors?
- ✓ **Effort:** Is this senior level writing? Is there **proof of revision** and editing?