

Choice One: College Application Essay

Describe an experience that has had an impact on your life.

Outline Guide for Essay

Introduction Paragraph

- A. Attention Getter: Catch the reader with an interesting statement, question, analogy, definition, etc.
- B. Bridge: Connect your AG to your thesis here.
- C. Thesis: Identify the particular experience that had an impact on your life.

Body Paragraph 1

Describe your life before the incident and how the incident came about.

This might be a good paragraph to plug in anything about yourself that would separate you from the other applicants. Do this in a creative way, where it may seem humble rather than just bragging. Remember: the person reading your essay may have been in music, or loves to run like you, or played tennis, or even had to work after school. By plugging your extracurricular activities and volunteer work in, you may very well be making a connection with the reader.

Body Paragraph 2

Describe the incident that had an impact on your life in detail. Describe the feelings you had, and be specific as to what exactly caused you have these feelings. Most importantly, who did you go to for help, and how did this person help you.

Body Paragraph 3

Describe how things then went well and changed.

Conclusion

- A. Restate thesis
- B. Clincher: Explain what you learned from the experience. What is this new attitude from which you have been enlightened? Example: I have learned to be more patient with myself and others./ I learned that I didn't have to be the best, but had to do my best because I enjoy learning physics.

Make sure when you have completed your essay to **PROOFREAD** your paper for errors, and **PRINT** a copy for me to grade.

Make sure to turn your paper in to [turnitin.com](https://www.turnitin.com), and **PRINT OUT** and hand in your digital receipt with your printed essay.

Due date for essay and receipt:

SAMPLE ON NEXT PAGES

Student Example

Mrs. Magel

College Prep, 2nd hour

10 Sept. 2008

A Life Changing Experience

Can you imagine standing in a skin-tight leotard, nonetheless, on a four-inch wide beam, five feet off the ground, preparing to hurl your body into the air and trusting all your grueling hours of practice will help you to land on your feet safe and sound in front of an audience and your teammates? No pressure, right? Yeah right. You're a gymnast, and gymnastics is all about pressure. Ever since I was little, I'd been in love with gymnasts. Their sure confidence, their beautiful grace, their pure muscle, and their incredible determination was amazing. Everything I wanted to be was in a gymnast. When I got the chance to join gymnastics in seventh grade, I signed up in a heartbeat. I soon discovered that gymnasts were actors as well as athletes. Gymnastics was incredibly difficult work, yet gymnasts always looked so graceful and at ease; completely in their element. This was going to be hard work. Where was their quick two-step top-secret trick to instantly fly through the air and land beautifully? Where was the thunderous applause? Why were all the coaches constantly yelling for more push-ups and sit-ups? I was ready to throw in the leotard. Thank God for Jane. I wasn't willing to work and to push myself to the limit, but Jane was there to push me, guide me, and make me want to strive to do my best.

I joined gymnastics expecting all the wrong things. I walked through those doors expecting to be great, to be the next big star, and to be surrounded by friends, praise, and awards. That was my first big mistake. First of all, I thought gymnastics would be a piece of cake, another plaque to add to the wall. I've never exactly had to struggle through anything in my life. All through elementary I got perfect

straight As, certificates of achievement from my principal, and I never studied once. It came naturally. So I thought gymnastics would be no different. Boy, was I wrong! Secondly, I thought I had some connections with the gymnastics team. The coach happened to be my cousin, Jess. Talk about getting special treatment! The “special treatment” that I received wasn’t exactly what I had expected. Jess worked me harder than all the other girls because she knew I had the potential. Lastly, I expected to be showered with praise about my amazing skills and beautiful tricks. Let’s just say, I was way off base on this one. If I didn’t deliver, my teammates and coaches sure let me know! If I was part of their team and representing them, I had better be doing my best.

By this point in time, I was exhausted. I was so frustrated that gymnastics wasn’t what I expected it to be at all. I felt hurt when girls told me to step it up. I was jealous of the skills of the girls who had been in gymnastics since kindergarten. I wanted their life so badly. I complained to my friend, Jane, who asked me the key question: how hard was I willing to work for their skills that I desired so desperately? From that point on, she was on my back all throughout the gymnastic’s season. She made me do ten more push-ups than every other girl. She forced me to run laps when I complained, and to hold stances on bars when I said “I can’t.” She pushed me, and she made me work for what I wanted so badly.

Before I knew it, my kips were getting better, my mounts and landings were a little less sloppy, and my round-offs and backhand springs were more calculated and graceful. I couldn’t believe it! I had worked hard for something, and I was reaping the rewards, thanks to Jane. She showed me what real work was and how great it felt to succeed at something I truly worked hard at. I wasn’t the only one who noticed my progress either. My teammates and coaches were commenting on my improvements, and I was ecstatic!

After I pushed myself, with a little help from a friend, I discovered what real work was. I

pushed myself and found that my true limit was far beyond what I first thought. I strived to do my best, and I can honestly say that I did. Maybe I wasn't the best gymnast on the team or the best on a certain section, but I was the best that I could be, and that was good enough for me. I also learned the true meaning of teamwork and taking criticism positively. When the girls and my coach were telling me to work harder, I took it negatively. I shouldn't have. They really wanted me to do my best. Gymnastics was an incredible learning experience, and I've made some true life-long friends. I wouldn't trade that time of my life for anything else in the world.

Choice Two: Scholarship Application Letter

Write a personal letter to a Scholarship Committee.

Begin with your salutation: (entire paper should be lined up on the left margin)

Tozer Scholarship Committee or To the Scholarship Committee:

Introduction

Begin with a brief statement of who you are, the school you attend, and where you plan to go to college after high school. You may want to make a general statement as to why you are writing the letter. (ex. I am writing to apply for a scholarship.)

Body Paragraph 1 (do not indent body paragraphs; put a space in between each one)

Describe yourself. Here you can describe what you are like, what activities you have been in, what roles of leadership you have had, what volunteer work you have done, and/or anything that makes you stand out as a person. This is a good paragraph to plug in anything about yourself that would separate you from the other applicants. Do this in a creative way, where it may seem humble rather than just bragging. Remember: the person reading your essay may have been in music, or loves to run like you, or played tennis, or even had to work after school. By plugging your extracurricular activities and volunteer work in, you may very well be making a connection with the reader.

Body Paragraph 2

Describe what you want from a college education. Where do you plan to attend college? What do you plan to major in? What are your future goals?

Body Paragraph 3

Describe your financial situation. What have you done and will you do to help yourself financially? How will your parents/guardians contribute? (May be of relevance to mention how many children are in your family and if any are also in college.) What financial aid will you need for the upcoming years of college?

Conclusion

Include any additional information you want the Scholarship Committee to consider in evaluating your personal qualifications and financial need.

Always thank the Scholarship Committee for their time and consideration.

End with your closing:

Sincerely,

(leave room for your signature here)

Type your name here

Make sure when you have completed your letter to PROOFREAD for errors and PRINT a copy for me to grade. Make sure to turn your letter in to turnitin.com, and print out and hand in your digital receipt with your printed copy.

Due date for letter and receipt:

To the Scholarship Committee:

My name is Wantag O. Tocollege, and I am attending Pine City High School in Pine City, Minnesota. I am writing to apply for your scholarship. Following the completion of my

senior year, I will be attending the University of Mary in Bismark, North Dakota. I feel that your scholarship will greatly help my college campaign.

High school life, for me, has been extremely busy, which is the way I like it. I am a very active person who always has to be doing something. There are plenty of ways that I stay busy. Aside from school, my extracurricular activities include football, hockey, and track. I am also on the student council and a senior class board member. All the while participating in school and my extracurricular activities, I also hold some jobs. I work the Pizza Pub in Pine City year round. I also manage a hockey rink in the winter and do lawn care in the summer. I believe that I possess good leadership skills and have no problem being in a leadership role. I am the captain of both my hockey and football teams. Also being in the student council and on the senior class board, I am required to make good decisions for my classmates.

What I want from a college education is to set me up for a successful career and life. I am planning on going to the University of Mary. I am planning to major in athletic training, and then earn my doctrine in physical therapy. My goal is to become a head trainer on a professional sports team. This would allow me to do a lot of traveling which is something I love. I would eventually want to settle down and just practice at a hospital or clinic.

As I stated above, I hold three jobs. My parents do provide the necessities of life for me, but I know if I want anything extra I need to work for it. I have no problem working for what I want. I would continue to work part time in college; however, I plan on playing college football. Football will take up a lot of my time, and my work load from school will make it very difficult to work, if even part time. My parents unfortunately won't be able to help me very much at all with my college costs. I am the last child of three. My oldest sibling just graduated from San Diego State University, and my other sibling is attending the University of Arizona. I will need a sufficient amount of financial aid for my upcoming years of college.

I assure you that if you select me as a recipient of your scholarship I will certainly make the most of the opportunity granted to me. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Wantag O. Tocollege