

## Template for writing a Personal Essay

- Introduction: Favorite quote or attention getter to help them understand why you've chosen to be in the \_\_\_\_\_ field
- Provide background and share what has led you to your current career goal: I've spent a number of years working as a \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identify short term and long term goals: I'm currently attending Century College majoring in \_\_\_\_\_ with plans to transfer to \_\_\_\_\_ to obtain my bachelors in \_\_\_\_\_.
- While here at Century I've been a part of (clubs/organizations) \_\_\_\_\_. Share how this has helped you....what have you gained as a result of this?
- Share any special interests that you have, ways you volunteer or give back to the community now, or have plans to do so in the future and how this relates to your career goal. While attending Century College I have been a part of \_\_\_\_\_. This role has \_\_\_\_\_.
- This scholarship will help me financially: This scholarship will provide for \_\_\_\_\_.
- End with a thank you..... Thank you for your consideration of me

Most essays are looking for four things.

- Who are you
- What are your educational goals
- What are your career goals
- What is your financial need

## How to write a personal essay.

Understand what a personal essay is.

-A personal essay is the writer's personal thoughts, personal experiences, and personal truths. There are no topics that are off limits for a personal essay. However, remember that you are writing a personal essay for a scholarship and faculty and other staff members will be reading these. That being said, the readers do not know what you do not tell them. Do not leave something out, ex. Financial problems, housing issues, food issues. These are nothing to be embarrassed about, and we want to help, but we can't if we don't know that there is a problem.

Pick a topic that you find persuasive enough to get you a scholarship.

-This is a topic that will convince the reader that you are worthy of this scholarship.

-Make sure to include if you were to win this scholarship, why would it help you or your family's financial situation. This is if you are applying for a financial need based scholarship, or any scholarship. However, make sure this is not your whole essay.

-Some topic ideas include but are not limited to

- i. What degrees do you plan to earn? What kind of career do you want to have?
- ii. What inspired you to choose this degree or field?
- iii. How do you plan to make your community/ the world a better place?
- iv. What are some of your accomplishments, strengths, and interests?
  1. This could include academic achievements, athletic achievements, artistic achievements, community involvement, skills, volunteer experience, work experience, personal interests, etc.
- v. What are some challenges you have faced?
- vi. Something that changed your life in a good or bad way.
- vii. When you've had to make a difficult choice.
- viii. A moment you are very proud of.
- ix. Struggles you or our family have faced.

Create an outline! This will help you make sure your thoughts are organized and you can make a strong introduction and conclusion.

-Most scholarships are looking for who you are, what your educational goals are, what your career goals are, and what is your financial need situation.

-Then make sure your conclusion makes your reader think! You want to leave the readers remembering your essay.

-Narrow your focus on the essay. Make sure your essay has flow and does not have information that is unnecessary. If you are unsure, **ask for help**, there are many people on both campuses who would love to help!

General tips!

-PROOF READ.

-Do not use general explanations, use details. Make sure the reader knows exactly how you felt in a situation, or your feelings towards your career goals.

**Again, it is okay to ask for help! We at the Century College Foundation, and all staff at Century College want you to be as successful as possible!**

For questions feel free to call Sonja LaFoy (651)779-3356  
Or stop by at the Century College Foundation office (E2501)

