

Grade 9-10

Biographical/Autobiographical Compositions

Personal Explorations - What This Would Look Like in College

English 60
Essay #2

This essay will be a comparison or contrast essay. Remember that if you write a comparison, you will focus on similarities, and if you write a contrast essay, you will focus on differences. Choose one or the other; do not attempt to explore both.

The essay will consist of four paragraphs. It is a short composition in which you will corroborate your thesis with two supporting points. Your first paragraph will be your introduction, your two body paragraphs will explore your supporting points, and your last paragraph will be your conclusion. Make sure to include all necessary components in each paragraph:

Introduction: hook, thesis, plan of development

Body paragraphs: topic sentence, examples, commentary/analysis

Conclusion: main point, thoughts to ponder, suggestions, and/or parting thoughts

Method of Organization: Remember that a comparison/contrast essay must follow one of two methods of organization - point-by-point or blocking. Refer back to your notes from class if you need help with the essay's structure. Please stick to one method; if you switch back and forth between the two, it becomes very confusing for the reader.

Topic: In this essay, you will explore the similarities or differences in yourself from high school to college, from your first attempt at college to this one, from your first semester to this one, or from last semester to this semester. You may focus on your attitude, your skills, your time management methods, or your sense of commitment. What better understanding do you have of yourself? What have you learned about college success by looking at your own behaviors and attitudes? Remember: there must be a purpose behind looking at the similarities or differences. Why is this exploration important? These questions will help you devise a thesis

Rough draft due: _____ **Final draft due:** _____

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