# Personal essay paragraph feedback

# Writing: Arguments based on experiences and sources

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| **0-2** | **4** | **6** | **8** | **10** |
| The text does not respond to the instructions: Insufficient use of sources, much too short, etc. | There are ideas based on some anecdotes and sources, though maybe tangentially. | Somewhat developed college-level ideas based on some relevant anecdotes and general concepts from one source. | Developed college-level ideas based on developed relevant anecdotes and a specific concept from at least one source. | Ideas and anecdotes are also particularly detailed or thoughtful, and two sources are used meaningfully, one video and one text. |

Standard feedback. If it’s in yellow, then it applies to you. If nothing is in yellow, nothing applies.

* You structured your text like a story, in chronological order. I want it structured like an essay, around ideas.
* The first sentence of your paragraph should be a “topic sentence.” Re-read the instructions for examples.
* Your topic sentence is not clear enough. Check that it clearly names the problem, the solution, and the benefit.
* The opening sentence should be specific. Too general: “Work-life balance is important to me.” Much better: “Reducing my work hours will help me have better work-life balance.”
* Use your sources explicitly. Name the person whose ideas you are using.
* You were supposed to use a video AND a text. It looks like you only really used a video.
* You were supposed to use a video AND a text. It looks like you only really used a text.
* Use your sources in a college-level way. Go beyond the main idea in the title, for example.
* Use the sources actively. Don’t just quickly mention something and then move on. USE them.
* Use the sources more. You can use them for the problem and then again for the solution, for example.
* Your essay is about yourself, not people in general. Do not write, e.g. “If you work less, you will…”
* Be more specific about your own life. Tell me stories that really happened to you and illustrate your ideas.
* Have a specific plan to attain your goal. It will help you make your ideas more specific.
* A paragraph should only have one main idea, and develop it a lot. You have too many ideas for this kind of text.
* Your paragraph has some excessive repetition. Develop more instead, using concepts or anecdotes.