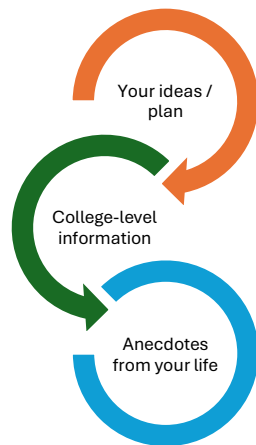


Personal essay practice

Instructions: Write a 200-word “personal essay” paragraph that uses one of the themes we have seen so far (the photocopies we use for the lab). 200 words is the minimum, but you are allowed to write more.

Personal essay paragraph



- The first sentence needs to be a topic sentence (explained later)
- You should refer to at least one video and use non-superficial information from it
- You should refer to at least one text and use non-superficial information from it
- One good way to do this is to use one to understand the problem and the other to explore a solution
- The text should be about your own life, not about “people” or “students.”
- The text should include examples and anecdotes from your life that illustrate your ideas and make them specific to you.

Topic sentences

- A topic sentence is a simple, one-sentence “conclusion” to your paragraph. It summarizes your main idea without explaining any part of it.
- An example for me for a personal essay could be “To feel more satisfied with my life, I want to take more control over how I use my time in a typical day.”
- Your topic sentence needs to be the first sentence of the paragraph. In English, this is how we start paragraphs. It’s like a mini-introduction for the paragraph.