

# The Future Essay

**Overview:** Show the reader your future goals and plans by telling a story of how you are already working toward this goal and experiencing success and growth.

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**Problem:** Your future goals must aim to solve a **Problem**, specifically one that impacts you *and* your community at-large.

**Goal:** Make sure your **goal** isn't just a career ("to be a teacher," "to join the military"), but an action that serves specific individuals ("to teach children literacy skills," "to defend the Constitution and the citizens it protects"). While you may have multiple future goals, limit your essay's goal to a single, physically-attainable one.

**Choice:** Describe **2 choices** you have made to begin accomplishing this goal, preferably in story/anecdote format: First, a **Choice** to get you started on this path (that may not have gone well, perhaps begin impeded by your **flaw** or an **obstacle**), and second, the **choice** you are making now that is better, wiser, or more effective as you prepare for college or the future.

(If the prompt is school or topic-specific, be sure to explain why the college, or topic, will specifically help you accomplish this goal in tangible ways. Also mention how you will be serving the college community during your journey. Always keep community in mind!)

**Sacrifice:** These choices must require some kind of **sacrifice**, in that you give up things you prefer for the sake of this **goal**. As with other prompts, the **sacrifice** must be something physical (time, comfort, money, other opportunities) in order to "pay" for your progress toward the **goal**.

**Growth:** In the final paragraph, explain how you *are now* transforming from Person A → Person B on this journey toward the **goal**. Reflect on the **choices** and **sacrifices** you've made, and why they have prepared you for the next step at your college of choice, or in a topic area of the scholarship's wishing.

