

## “Obstacle” Essay – Critique Rubric

**Directions:** Use this rubric to evaluate the author’s essay. While this rubric is specific to the prompt formula, every prompt is slightly different, so interpret the rubric according to the particular scholarship’s requirements!

### PARAGRAPH #1: INTRODUCTION / PROBLEM

Story/Essay Element	Yes/No	Comments
Clearly identifies an <b>obstacle</b> the author has faced and overcome.		
Gives 1 concrete detail of the <b>obstacle</b> .		
Briefly explains why this <b>obstacle</b> must be overcome (justification).		
Transitions by suggesting the <b>goal</b> that must be accomplished to overcome the obstacle.		

**General Paragraph Notes:**

### PARAGRAPH #2: COMPLICATION

Story/Essay Element	Yes/No	Comments
Clearly identifies a first <b>choice</b> to overcome the obstacle.		
Explains why this <b>choice</b> was NOT sufficient to overcome the obstacle.		
Comments on how this obstacle exposes a personal <b>flaw</b> , or creates additional <b>obstacles</b> to self and/or others .		
Transitions with identification of <b>sacrifice</b> that must be made to find success.		

**General Paragraph Notes:**

### PARAGRAPH #3: CLIMAX

Story/Essay Element	Yes/No	Comments
Clearly identifies a second <b>sacrificial choice</b> to overcome the obstacle.		
Explains a detailed step of this choice, told as an anecdote (short story); Uses sufficient, vivid detail.		
Comments on the <b>sacrifice</b> and why it was essential to overcome the obstacle.		
Transitions with brief comment on <b>growth</b> and lessons learned.		

**General Paragraph Notes:**

### PARAGRAPH #4: CONCLUSION

Story/Essay Element	Yes/No	Comments
Reflects on how the <b>sacrifice</b> benefits both self and others.		
Reflects on how personal <b>flaws</b> were improved through this journey.		
Mentions future <b>goals</b> , and notes how they have been shaped through this experience.		
Includes a brief note of gratitude.		

**General Paragraph Notes:**