

“Personal Achievement” 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 a goal that the author wishes to accomplish.		
Gives 1 concrete detail of an obstacle blocking the author from achievement.		
Briefly explains why this goal is worth pursuing (for self and others).		
Transitions by suggesting the first choice that must be made to achieve the goal .		

General Paragraph Notes:

PARAGRAPH #2: COMPLICATION

Story/Essay Element	Yes/No	Comments
Briefly depicts the first choice , including 1 specific detail.		
Explains why this choice was NOT sufficient to achieve the goal .		
Comments on how pursuing this goal exposes a personal flaw , or creates an obstacle to self and/or others.		
Transitions with identification of sacrifice that must be made to find success.		

General Paragraph Notes:

PARAGRAPH #3: CLIMAX

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

General Paragraph Notes:

PARAGRAPH #4: CONCLUSION

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

General Paragraph Notes: