

The Personal Achievement Essay

Overview: Show the reader how you have grown and matured by making sacrificial choices to accomplish a personal goal.

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Problem: Begin with a short scene where the **Problem** or **Flaw** is causes you to want more. This brief scene with you setting your ambitious **goal**, but it is currently far too much for your to accomplish.

Goal: Describe the specific physical benchmark to show what success looks like, versus failure. Your **goal** should include details of how success will positively benefit others in your community or the world at-large.

Choice: Describe 2 **choices** you made to achieve this **goal**. The first choice comes in Body #1, and is not enough to win you success. In fact, it should set you back a little. The second choice comes in Body #2, and successfully achieves the **goal**.

Sacrifice: Both **choices**, especially Choice #2, should require a **sacrifice**. You must sacrifice something physical (time, comfort, money, other opportunities) in order to “pay” for your success. Easily achieving a major personal goal makes for a terrible story.

Growth: In the final paragraph, explain how you've transformed from Person A → Person B while pursuing this personal achievement. Be sure to hint at how this experience is shaping your future **goals**.

