

“Topic” 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 problem affecting the author and his/her family or community.		
Gives 1 concrete detail of the problem .		
Briefly explains why this problem had to be overcome (for self and others).		
Transitions by describing the author's goals in relation to the problem.		

General Paragraph Notes:

PARAGRAPH #2: COMPLICATION

Story/Essay Element	Yes/No	Comments
Clearly depicts 1-2 sacrificial choices made by the author to pursuit of this goal .		
Uses vivid details/scenes to portray these choices , and what was sacrificed .		
Explains why these choices have not been enough, but are preparing the author for future choices accomplishing future goals .		
Transitions by hinting at the specific steps (choices) the author intends to take.		

General Paragraph Notes:

PARAGRAPH #3: CLIMAX

Story/Essay Element	Yes/No	Comments
Identifies 1-2 specific goals (referencing a college or topic, if required).		
Connects each goal to past and present sacrificial choices .		
Comments on how these choices are benefitting both self and others, and explains how they will in the future.		
Transitions with a remark on what you have learned about pursuing this goal (growth) .		

General Paragraph Notes:

PARAGRAPH #4: CONCLUSION

Story/Essay Element	Yes/No	Comments
Reflects on how sacrifices have taught the author about future plans.		
Reflects on specific future choices and goals with optimistic tone.		
Expresses specific hope for a specific community, in relation to goals .		
Comments on character growth , and how this prepares author for the unknown future.		
Includes a brief note of gratitude.		

General Paragraph Notes: