

The Topic Essay

Overview: Show the reader how you have grown and matured thanks to sacrificial participation in the given Topic.

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Problem: Life before the Topic entered it should be **flawed**, or lacking in purpose or discipline, at least to a degree. A specific **goal** or **choice** that was selfish can help establish the starting point for the **growth** and **change** you will explore later.

Goal: Participation in the Topic should either assist in you achieving a noble **goal**, or in helping you find one to pursue.

Choice: This is the key element of the Topic essay, as **sacrificial** participation in the Topic will cause you to make new **choices**. Explain at least 2 of these, one of them inward (to improve yourself) and one of them outward (to improve the lives of others). Be specific and tangible with how these **choices** actually affect people.

Sacrifice: Joining the Topic or participating in it, and the **choices** you make as a result of it, must have a physical cost (time, comfort, money, other opportunities, old relationships).

Growth: In the final paragraph, explain how you've transformed from Person A → Person B thanks to participation in the Topic. Specifically identify the values that the Topic itself has taught you, and the relationships formed in the Topic have taught you, and possibly remark on how you intend to share the love of this Topic with others in the future.

