

CATEGORY	CRITERIA	POINTS POSSIBLE
Make Me Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – It has uncertainty and serious stakes that create tension. – It contains a lot of specific details and imagery. – It uses almost all indirect characterization. – The words are carefully chosen and emotional. – You feel like you know the author; it has minimal cliché usage. 	___/20
Story Arc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The setting grabs the reader and makes a promise that this will be worth his/her/ their time; it contains interesting questions. – There is a clear problem that builds to a climax; the climax has tension and is some of your best writing. – The resolution ties up all the loose ends; if no resolution is present, there is a good reason for it. 	___/10
Grammar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – All commas are used correctly. – There is interesting use of advanced grammatical techniques to enhance the piece. – There are no nonpurposeful run-ons and fragments. – The grammar is polished according to Standard English conventions (or has good reasons for why it doesn't follow the conventions). 	___/10
Mr. Johnson's Growth Areas	<p>You spend time grappling with Mr. Johnson's core growth areas; you move forward in those areas in significant ways.</p> <p>Mr. Johnson's core growth areas for me include</p> <p>(1)</p> <p>(2)</p>	___/15
Your Goals	<p>You put serious effort toward improving in your goal areas.</p> <p>Your personal goals are</p> <p>(1)</p> <p>(2)</p>	___/15
The Rest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – It is well organized and has no sudden transitions. – It has interesting language and a clear and consistent voice. – The topic is compelling and interesting. – The writing in the paper works because . . . 	___/30
Total	Comments:	___/100

FIGURE 3.5 • Personal Essay Criteria, With Focus on Students' Goals