

## Personal Essay Rubric

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CATEGORY	CRITERIA	POINTS POSSIBLE
<b>Make Me Care</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– It has uncertainty and serious stakes that create tension.</li> <li>– It contains a lot of specific details and imagery.</li> <li>– It uses almost all indirect characterization.</li> <li>– The words are carefully chosen and emotional.</li> <li>– You feel like you know the author; it has minimal cliché usage.</li> </ul>	__/20
<b>Story Arc</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– The setting grabs the reader and makes a promise that this will be worth his/her/ their time; it contains interesting questions.</li> <li>– There is a clear problem that builds to a climax; the climax has tension and is some of your best writing.</li> <li>– The resolution ties up all the loose ends; if no resolution is present, there is a good reason for it.</li> </ul>	__/10
<b>Grammar</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– All commas are used correctly.</li> <li>– There is interesting use of advanced grammatical techniques to enhance the piece.</li> <li>– There are no nonpurposeful run-ons and fragments.</li> <li>– The grammar is polished according to Standard English conventions (or has good reasons for why it doesn't follow the conventions).</li> </ul>	__/10
<b>Mr. Johnson's Growth Areas</b>	<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> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1)</li> <li>(2)</li> <li>(3)</li> </ol>	__/15
<b>Your Goals</b>	<p>You put serious effort toward improving in your goal areas.</p> <p>Your personal goals are</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1)</li> <li>(2)</li> <li>(3)</li> </ol>	__/15
<b>The Rest</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– It is well organized and has no sudden transitions.</li> <li>– It has interesting language and a clear and consistent voice.</li> <li>– The topic is compelling and interesting.</li> <li>– The writing in the paper works because . . .</li> </ul>	__/30
<b>Total</b>	Comments:	__/100