**College/Personal Essay Assignment**

**Task:**

You may use your interactive notebook entry #5, “Snapshot of your life,” a personal essay topic from the list, or any prompt given from the college of your choice to complete this assignment. The essay must be double-spaced, Times New Roman, 12-font, and a minimum of 500 words. This will be a test grade, and the final draft is due in Google Classroom on Tuesday, October 4th. If you finish before the assigned date, you may turn it in early. The personal/college essay will be graded using the rubric discussed in class. A copy of this assignment and the rubric is on the Weebly site (in the 9/26 & 10/4 lesson plan).

**Personal Essay:**

The personal essay gives you the opportunity to show your audience who you are using sensory description and figurative language.

**To begin your essay, brainstorm using the following questions:**

* Am I applying to college?

If so, what might help the evaluating committee better understand you? What sets you apart from other applicants? Why should an admissions committee be interested in you?

* I am not applying to college, why should I care about this essay?

The personal essay will help my teachers know more about me and develop my writing skills. What would I like my teachers to know? How have I grown or matured? What is important to me?

**Introduction –**

Find an angle or a hook which is interesting and will set you apart from your peers; a good place to start is with an anecdote or memorable incident that led you to choose the particular topic. This can help add drama, vitality, and originality to the essay. Include a thesis statement to alert the reader about the point you are trying to make.

**Body –**

Write 1-3 paragraphs in which you elaborate on your thesis. Each paragraph should focus on one point or example that will support your thesis and provide plenty of specific details to back up that point.

**Conclusion –**

The conclusion needs to be a full paragraph (3-5 sentences) which restates your thesis (in different words than you used in the introduction) and brings your essay to closure. Youu might close by reflecting on how an experience impacted your future, or advice that might help someone else make a better decision, etc.

Before you turn in the final draft of your essay, re-read your work and use the following evaluative questions to help you revise your essay.

* Does the opening paragraph grab your attention?
* Is the essay interesting or does it put you to sleep?
* Is it an honest portrayal?
* Does the essay provide insight into you and your character?
* Is it well-written?
* Are there any typos? Have you used spell-check?