

“This I Believe” Personal Narrative/Essay Scoring Guide

FORMAT (____/5 POINTS; 1 POINT EACH)

- ★ Essay is titled; **title is centered**
- ★ Essay has your name under the title
- ★ Essay is **double spaced** throughout
- ★ Essay is organized into paragraphs
- ★ Essay is **300-500 words** in length

AUDIENCE (____/12 POINTS; 3 POINTS EACH)

- ★ Ideas are clearly written with specific supporting details and examples
- ★ “This I believe” is intentionally stated at least once during the essay for greatest effect.
- ★ **Writing conventions** are carefully followed
- ★ Narrative/Essay demonstrates a strong effort on the part of the author to communicate effectively with his or her audience

TOPIC (____/12 POINTS; 3 POINTS EACH)

- ★ The author **tells a story that explains** how he/she developed the core belief or beliefs, and either why these beliefs matter, how they manifest themselves (or play out) in the author’s life, or both.
- ★ The author’s thoughts are clear and coherent (make sense).
- ★ Author uses descriptive language and sensory details to elaborate
- ★ Author’s tone is obvious to the reader in his/her word choices and imagery

PURPOSE (____/6 POINTS; 3 POINTS EACH)

- ★ The author tells his or her story using **first person**
- ★ The essay is interesting to read and the reader understands at least what the belief is and one other aspect of the belief at work in the author’s life.

ESSAY TOTAL: _____/35 points