



Thometz
Life Coaching

#8 College Essay Writing Template - 2nd Draft

1. *Cut and paste the essay prompt at the top of your page. Delete Later.*
2. Your first sentence should be simple and declarative. Invite your reader into your world. *Don't repeat the prompt in this sentence. No "ing" words, flashbacks, or quotes from other writers.*
3. Take the reader on a journey. You don't need to know where the essay is going. Just write! In her book, Rachel Toor says, "We don't write to be understood but to understand. In other words we write to find out what we think." Go crazy on your first draft!
4. There is the story and the situation (what you learned). Don't tell us who you are, tell us how you got to be who you are.
5. "What I came to understand. What I realized, etc."
6. What happens in your story matters less than what you learned.
7. Failure is Gold! Conflict is Great!
8. Good Essays Are Vivid and Specific!

For each sentence you write, ask yourself these questions:

1. What am I trying to say?
2. What words will express it?
3. What image or idiom will make it clearer? You want to paint vivid images in your reader's mind.
4. Is this image fresh enough to have an effect?
5. Could I put it more succinctly?
6. Have I said anything that is avoidably ugly?

Give your reader a break. Use commas and paragraphs.

Start Here.

End Up Here