

Openers

Other people's words, telling about "you" instead of self, and passive voice

Christopher Gardner once said, "Maybe happiness is something we can only pursue, and maybe we can actually never have it – no matter what." The pursuit of happiness affects all people, from all walks of life. It can anger you, but it can calm you. It can give you hope, but it can also make that hope fade away. There are struggles faced day after day, and the only reason to keep facing these struggles is the common goal that is believed to be at the end of hard lives – "happiness."

90 words

Showing, specific, "the difference is in the details"

I like to wake up to the smell of crisp bacon and burnt-to-perfection toast wafting throughout every square inch of my nice suburban home. I enjoy the pleasant sound of birds whistling their beautiful, harmonious songs right outside my window. And of course, the feeling of the hot, steamy shower pouring gently over my head and shoulders sends tingles down my spine. As much as I would like to say that this is my every day, typical morning . . . it seems to me that this dream will only remain a dream.

The last time I had breakfast on a school day was my sophomore year of high school, and I don't remember the crisp smell of bacon.

121 words

This could be anyone's essay

Everyone has a reality check when they are out into the real world, and have to work for what they get. Some people fail and other flourish, but no story is ever the same.

This is specific and personal

Two years ago, I was picked up from my home in Michigan and, as if in some sort of social experiment, dropped into life in San Diego.

Philosophizing rather than sharing a personal statement

Only through serving can this fulfilling feeling occur. Only through serving can we really practice the warmth of common kindness. In our society, serving at Soup Kitchens and other such functions during the Holiday season is written off as a stereotypical Christian duty. However, those same people overlook the fact that the homeless and poor need these meals and help year-round, not just during one season.

High school is a time in a teenager's life to find themselves and bring out the true colors deep beneath their skin. Even though high school is meant to be a place for learning and growing in order to determine their future outcome, most teens use it as a social sanctum that serves as a purpose to blossom their social communications.