

My Essay Outline *Foundational Elements*



Message: Qualities or values I'm focusing on (1-3):



Medium: Aspect(s) of selfhood I'm focusing on:

Medium: Major experiences/moments I'm focusing on:

Essay Outline

Note that the compartments below don't represent PARAGRAPHS. They represent SECTIONS that alternate between:

Showing

“zooming in” to immerse the reader in a scene with details that make it come alive

and **Telling**

“zooming out” to provide context for what is happening or explain the significance of an experience

A SECTION might be a sentence, a paragraph, or several paragraphs!

Note that this is NOT a set formula--you might alternate more or less frequently between showing and telling. You might have more, or fewer, details associated with each moment. Add & delete boxes, moments, details--whatever. This is just somewhere to get started!

Show: *Zoom In On A Particular Moment.*

Tell: *Provide Context For That Moment.*

Show: *Flesh Out The Story With More Moments, Details & Imagery.*

Moment: _____

Detail: _____

Detail: _____

Moment: _____

Detail: _____

Detail: _____

Moment: _____

Detail: _____

Detail: _____

Tell: *Provide Context Or Explain Significance Of Experience(s).*

Show: *Flesh Out The Story With More Moments, Details & Imagery.*

Moment: _____

Detail: _____

Detail: _____

Tell: *Close By Explaining Significance Of Experience(s).*

Optional: *Show: End With An Image*

Note: Typically the college essay is somewhere between 500-750 words, or between 1 and 1 ½ single-spaced, typed pages. Don't worry too much about length right now, though--you can whittle down or beef up your essay to fit the specific guidelines later.

What's important right now is finding a story you want to tell and thinking about how to tell it well, with a balance of showing and telling, so that your reader comes away with an understanding of a) who you are and b) how you got that way.