

WRITING ASSIGNMENT #1: SHIELD ESSAY

You will be writing a *Shield Essay* that is based off of the shields you made last week. Please follow the guidelines below as you draft your essay. See the sample essay below for help with MLA format.

Due Dates:

Typed rough draft is due on _____

Typed final draft is due on _____

Paper Set-up:

- Typed
- Double Spaced
- 1 inch margins (top and sides)
- 12 point font (Times New Roman)
- 2-3 pages long

Organization of Paper:

Paragraph #1: Introduction

Paragraph #2: Who you are

Paragraph #3: Goals you have for your life and career

Paragraph #4: Personal challenges

Paragraph #5: Personal strengths

Paragraph #6: How you will use your strengths to overcome your weaknesses

Paragraph #7: Conclusion

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31 August 20__

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SAMPLE

Not This No One

“You’ll never be anything in life,” my father once said. That statement has resonated in my head every year since he said it nearly five years ago. Fortunately, I am not the failure my father thinks I am. I have several goals for my life and career that I *will* achieve. Though I have significant challenges in my life, my strengths will help me overcome these challenges and a new statement will resonate in my head.

SIX WAYS TO “HOOK” YOUR READER

Directions: Read through the six “hooks” below. Check the box of the strategy that you will use in your introduction to “hook” your reader.

Anecdote : An anecdote is a brief story that will be of interest to your reader.

Example: *I wasn't always the confident student you see today. It wasn't long ago that I was ashamed of who I was. I had braces, freckles, and a bad hairstyle. Though, I still have freckles, I have learned that I have skills and abilities that make me special...*

Quotation: Words of wisdom that relate to the topic of your essay. State who said the quote.

Example: *It was my mother who first told me, “You are a bright young man who just needs to discover who you are.” My mom was right, though I hate to admit it. I now know that I have many talents...*

Startling Information: This can be an incident or statistic that relates to the topic of your essay.

Example: *Brrrrring! Brrrrrrring! The phone rang late that hot summer night. It was the police department. My brother was in jail for the third time that year! It was then that I realized that I did not want to head down the same path as my brother. I have specific goals for my life and career...*

Opinion: This can be your opinion or the opinion of others that relates to the topic of your essay.

Example: *I believe all students should take the time to set goals for their lives. Taking a good look at yourself will help you determine what your skills are and what you need to work on to achieve those goals....*

Controversial Question: This can be a question that gets the reader to disagree with you or gets him/her curious about the topic of your essay.

Example: *Have you ever thought that you were a loser? Unfortunately, I am a repeat offender. For the last five years I have told myself that I am worthless. I know realize that I have many talents and skills that I can use to help me achieve my goals...*

Definition: This definition should relate to the topic of your essay.

Example: *A goal is the result or achievement toward which effort is directed. I have two specific goals that I plan to achieve by the time I am 25 years old...*