

Your Assignment:

For the purposes of a college/scholarship essay, please choose a story that...

Features YOU as the main character.

Answers the prompt, but matters to YOU.

First, make sure YOU care about it.

Then, make sure your reader will understand WHY you care about it.

Involves a transformation/growth.

This can involve you learning to accept something, changing your perspective, surviving a big (or tiny) ordeal, or just learning something really basic.

(See Transformation handout for more info on this.)

Highlights personal strengths.

Think of what you'd like the admissions committee to know about you.

Some characteristics you may want to highlight include: perseverance, integrity, commitment, critical thinking, a willingness to challenge yourself, grit, and compassion, among others.

Is full of lively details.

Work to bring your story to life with details.

But avoid details that might put your readers to sleep.

"The circus smelled like popcorn and children." vs.

"I got popcorn, and I ate it, and I kind of wanted more, but I wasn't sure if I should get more, because maybe I would feel sick if I ate more, but then again I really wanted more so I thought about buying more and..."

Reminders: It can be OK to make fun of yourself. But beware of mocking others.

Genuine humor emerges from conflict and truth.

Be aware of your verb tenses.

Be concise- you have a word count limit.

Answer your prompt.

And proofread, proofread, proofread.