

***This I Believe* Essay**

We've spent some time in class reviewing your personal beliefs. We've also read and listened to a few essays written by others explaining their own beliefs, so now it's time to write your own *This I Believe* essay. You need to choose one specific belief and write an essay following the format of the sample essays we read in class. Your belief should be easy to figure out, but not necessarily specifically stated. You need to have some specific experiences showing why you believe what you believe. Remember, you are not persuading anyone to believe what you believe, you are simply telling them why you believe what you believe.

Your grade on the essay will be based on the six-trait of writing. The following is the grade breakdown:

Ideas (5 points each/ 20 total)

- The belief is clear without saying *This I Believe*
- Ideas are supported with valid details
- Ideas are fresh and original
- Gets the reader's attention with a strong lead and holds the attention

Organization (5 points each/ 20 total)

- Has a clear lead, avoiding cliché
- Sequencing is logical and effective
- Solid conclusion pulling together the ideas and showing the belief
- Creative title

Voice (5 points each/15 total)

- Commitment and compassion on the topic are respectful
- Voice is engaging and enthusiastic
- Writing is personal

Word Choice (5 points each/15 total)

- Lively verbs, specific nouns
- Striking words and phrases create imagery
- Language enhances meaning

Sentence Fluency (5 points each/ 15 total)

- Vary in length as well as structure
- Flows well; not choppy
- Purpose in sentences variations

Conventions (5 points each/ 15 total)

- Spelling and punctuation are correct
- Stylistic devices are correct (font type, size, spacing,)
- Any grammatical errors don't interfere with the reading

Total	100 points
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The final draft of this essay is due on _____. You must also earn at least an 80% on the essay, or you will need to do revisions. The essay MUST be typed, 12 pt font, 1 inch margins. You will need to turn in your leading paragraph with peer questions, rough draft, and revisions with your final draft. I will not grade an essay that does not have those four pieces. If the revisions are not obvious, you will need to revise again.