

Personal Philosophy Narrative Essay

Total Points: 60

Assignment Overview:

In this essay, you will **create and defend your own personal philosophy** — a guiding set of beliefs about how to live, think, and act in the world. Drawing inspiration from **three philosophical schools of thought** (from our unit or additional research), you'll combine their core principles with your own experiences and reflections to develop a unique personal belief system.

This is a **narrative essay**, meaning your writing should include personal reflection and storytelling — moments from your own life that illustrate how or why your philosophy makes sense to you.

Requirements:

- **Length:** 2–3 pages (typed, double-spaced, MLA format)
- **Thesis:** Must clearly state your personal philosophy and defend *what you believe* and *why you believe it*
- **Philosophical Integration:**
 - Reference **3 key elements** (one from each of **three different philosophies**)
 - You may choose from:
Stoicism, Daoism, Nihilism, Utilitarianism, Existentialism, Relativism, Confucianism, Hedonism, or Kantianism
 - You may also incorporate an outside philosophy with teacher approval
- **Narrative Connection:** Include **personal examples or experiences** that demonstrate how your beliefs apply to real life

Essay Process & Point Breakdown (60 points total)

Stage	Description	Points
1. Graphic Organizer	Plan your essay by outlining your thesis, 3 philosophical influences, key life examples, and how they connect to your beliefs. Must be approved before drafting.	10 points
2. Rough Draft	Write your first full draft with clear structure (introduction, body, conclusion). Must be approved before moving to final draft.	20 points
3. Final Draft	Submit a polished, edited essay with strong organization, clear voice, and MLA formatting.	30 points

Total: 60 points

Essay Structure Guide:

Introduction (1 paragraph)

- Hook your reader with a thought-provoking question or story
- Introduce the concept of a “personal philosophy”
- End with your **thesis statement**: what you believe and why

Body Paragraphs (2–3 paragraphs)

- Explain **each of the three philosophies** you’re drawing from
- Describe **how and why** you agree with parts of each
- Include **personal examples** or stories showing your beliefs in action

Conclusion (1 paragraph)

- Reflect on how your personal philosophy helps you navigate life
 - End with a memorable insight or takeaway about your worldview
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Important Notes:

- You **must receive teacher approval** at each stage before advancing.
- Late or incomplete stages will delay your progress and affect your score.
- You are encouraged to be creative and introspective — this essay should sound **authentically you.**