

Answer each of the following questions and mark the essay where needed.

1. Where in the essay do you state your belief? Write the essence of the belief in 5 words or less.
2. Are you making strong and precise word choices? Provide a sample of some of your strong words below.
3. Does your essay tell a story? How does the story tie to the shaping of your belief? Does it stray into tangential information that lessens the impact of the essay?
4. Your essay must stay positive. Does it preach or editorialize? Avoid using sweeping generalizations employing the collective “we.” State your belief, **NOT** what you don’t believe.
5. Read your essay **aloud** to yourself. Does it sound like you? Are you using words and phrases that are comfortable for you to speak? Now, read it aloud again; simplify and edit your essay until you find the words, tone, and story that truly echo your belief.
6. Proofread your essay for spelling, capitalization, punctuation, and usage errors.