

Getting Started: Personal Statement or Scholarship Essay

A. Fold 8 ½ x 11 " paper into quarters

1	2
3	4

Take 5-7 minutes or so to quickly write down:

1. Story about your name—origin, etc.
2. Something you have achieved that you're proud to have accomplished.
3. One thing you want to do before you die.
4. The most embarrassing moment of your life.

B. Use one of these four topics as a starter on your essay:

1. Hook
2. Challenges/obstacles—give positive spin
3. Career goals—be specific
4. Career choice and major
 - May be different and so give two paragraphs
 - good to prove you have a plan, know what you want to do
 - Conclusion important
 - why you need the money—how many hours you are working, parents have no job, etc.

C. First Lines

from "Let me Introduce Myself"--Stanford's newest class

1. Read aloud these first lines one at a time
2. You have 5 mins to come up with your own first line

Use worksheet now to jot notes, to write essay

1 ½ pages double spaced minimum essay

Write your first draft

Read out loud

Get feedback