

College Essay Personal Narrative Critique Activity

Remember, although the college application narrative essay is written in 1st-person narrative mode, it is ultimately an essay with which you are persuading an audience. Your audience is college admission officials, and you are persuading them that you are a good fit for their school or program. As a persuasive essay, a good college application essay needs to develop strong appeals to ethos, pathos, and logos.

Ethos: Appeal to ethics. The essay establishes the writer’s credibility as a responsible, trustworthy, and dedicated person.

Pathos: Appeal to emotion. The essay is able to emotionally appeal to the audience through a strong personal connection.

Logos: Appeal to logic. The essay is logical because of how well it is logically organized. Does the order of points makes sense? Does the reader know the thesis of the essay and the supporting arguments?

Directions: Read and assess the four example college application narrative essays attached to this packet, then rank each one in order of best to third best for how effectively the essays appeal to each persuasive appeal. Then, write a rational explaining why you chose your top choice.

Ethos

Title of piece

Best piece appealing to ethos (title):	Second best piece appealing to ethos (title):	Third best piece appealing to ethos (title):
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Rational: _____

Pathos

Title of piece

Best piece appealing to Pathos (title):	Second best piece appealing to Pathos (title):	Third best piece appealing to Pathos (title):
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Rational: _____

Logos

Title of piece

Best piece appealing to Pathos (title):	Second best piece appealing to Pathos (title):	Third best piece appealing to Pathos (title):
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Rational: _____

