

Student Profile Essay
650 - 800 words

Due Tuesday, Sept. 17

This essay asks you to analyze your own strengths and weaknesses as a student. You may think of your first-day writing as a first draft, or you may choose to start fresh.

One of the things you will practice in this essay is **supporting your claims with evidence**. This is an important part of all academic writing. **In this essay**, the evidence comes from **your experience**, in the form of **detailed examples** from your personal history.

For each of the most important strengths and weaknesses that you identify, you need to re-create a specific experience you had that helps your readers to **see** the reality of what you are claiming about yourself as a student. The body of your essay should address at least one strength and at least one weakness.

You can also use information from the articles “Understanding Your Personality Type” and “Understanding Yourself: Growth Mindset and Fixed Mindset.” Using information from another piece of writing is a great way to strengthen your essay, especially when you tell us where the information comes from.

Here is a general outline for this assignment. You will see that there are four paragraphs in this outline: an introduction, two body paragraphs, and a conclusion. Individual students may choose to include one or two additional paragraphs.

Paragraph 1: Introduction. In the first paragraph of your essay, you will introduce yourself as a student, naming your strengths and weaknesses. The introduction of any essay makes the general claim(s), but it doesn’t need to provide the evidence, since the body paragraphs that follow will do that. Some of you will be able to use some of the writing you did on the first day to create the introduction.

Paragraph 2: Body paragraph about one important weakness. The **topic** of your first body paragraph will be one of your weaknesses. The paragraph will open with a topic sentence that identifies the weakness that you are focusing on. Then you will develop that topic by providing **evidence**—the example that illustrates the point you are making. After you have given the detailed example, finish the paragraph by reflecting on responsible choices you can make to lessen the impact of this weakness.

Paragraph 3: Body paragraph about one important strength. This is like paragraph 2, but it’s focused on a strength instead of a weakness, so the example will illustrate a strength. After you have given the example, finish the paragraph by reflecting on how you can take advantage of this strength to achieve your goals.

Paragraph 4: Conclusion. In the last paragraph of your essay, you want to **remind your reader of the general claim** about yourself as a student that you gave **in the introduction**. Also add a statement that is positive and hopeful about your educational goals.