

Sample Essay #1 (379 words)

I Paint My Life In Pastels

My name is Nicole and I am a dreamer who sees the world in pastel colors. You may be confused by this statement, so I will explain to you what I mean. I look at the world around me in the calming colors most artists would only paint for an Easter scene because they are simple and inviting. They give off a comforting feeling. When I was in elementary school art class, I always mixed white paint into my palette so I could create a picture that stood out without bold colors that catch your eye. Now I choose to see the world in pastel colors because they are simply how I think and feel.

Blush pink is for love. Pink roses, hearts, and a person with nervous rosy cheeks. It is for cotton candy at a fair on a warm summer night and the color of my favorite childhood dress. Pink is for when I am enjoying another day watching the sky melt into blue.

Baby blue is for raindrops and cloudy skies. It is for when I am feeling upset. Baby blue is a warm sweater, a coffee mug halfway empty, and a coffee pot already brewing another piping hot cup. Baby blue is for when I am just as lonely as Eeyore.

Light yellow is for bright days. It is for sunshine beaming down warm rays. Yellow is happiness in a paint stroke. Bright smiles, wild flowers, and fresh homemade lemonade. A fresh start to everyday.

Lilac purple is for when I am feeling calm. Violets and the sound of thunder rolling through the sky at night. The finale to a bright sky after the sun is getting closer to sinking into the dirt just before we rely on the moon to brighten up the sky.

Sage green brings out adventure. Fresh cut green grass between my toes and wind whistling through the leaves on the tallest tree. Seaweed washing up on shore as the waves crash through me like a wall. Green making me feel alive without a worry in the world.

I am shy, calm, inviting, happy, always ready for adventure, and an artist. I see the world how I would paint it and that is why I see the world in pastel colors.

Sample Essay #2 (331 words)

The Impact of Immigrants

In 1983, two immigrants migrated to the United States from Mexico and charted the course of my life. My parents left Mexico in search of a better environment in which to raise a family and create potential opportunities for a successful future. Their travels led them to Mercedes, Texas and later on to a small town called Montross, Virginia.

Neither of my parents finished elementary school, but I watched them work hard to overcome obstacles to give me the life they wished they had. They started out working in the fields for farmers in the area. As a child, they dragged me along each morning before the sun rose and stayed until the sun set. My parents worked their way up into opening their own store where I spent years helping out.

Currently, they own their own farm and they sell fruits and vegetables at farmer's markets. I have been working at farmer's markets since middle school. I work from April to December no matter the weather - rain or shine, cold or hot, I am there. The markets really improved my math skills as I learned how to do mental math and count back change. I have also encountered many people with different backgrounds and cultures and learned a lot about them.

Watching my parents succeed, despite so many obstacles, has motivated me to work hard in school and to follow my dreams. None of my siblings were able to go to college and I want to be the first in my family to attend. Working on the farm and at farmers' markets has made me appreciate what I have, but it has also made me realize that I want more for myself. It made me work even harder in school because I do not want to work on the farm for the rest of my life. I want to make my parents proud and show them that all their hard work and sacrifices have not been done in vain.

Sample Essay #3 (491 words)

2. The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?

The Impossible

Losing weight was an obstacle I encountered, failed, and finally succeeded in. Weight loss has always been an obstacle that troubled me for years. I failed in the process many times but always managed to pick myself up. After years of hard work, success happened. Many hours and days of hard work were put into trying to beat this obstacle. During this process, many things were learned on how to achieve something that seems to be impossible. It was the day that changed my life.

Weight loss seemed impossible for me at a very young age. I could never lose weight as a kid. Diets would never work for me because I enjoyed eating all types of food. My body was also too heavy for my age and height, which made it harder for me to stay active. I later decided that intense workouts seemed to be my only way of beating the hardest obstacle of my life. However, where there is an obstacle, there is failure.

I have failed for many years. Losing weight was a work in progress since I was in elementary school. I tried all methods possible and would not see results. I would lose weight one week and gain twice as much the next week. Inconveniences would also get in the way of beating my obstacle, but I still managed to overcome them and keep going. Then success finally came into play.

Success happened after many years of hard work. After all sorts of methods, I finally found a way to get in shape and lose weight. I tuned my body every day, pushed it to its limits with intense exercise, until I saw results. In two months, I managed to lose almost one hundred pounds. My physique changed so much in two months that when I went to visit my family, they did not even recognize me.

After finally achieving and beating one of the most impossible obstacles for some, in the process, many things were learned. I learned that nothing is as easy as one thinks. Hard work will help you achieve and beat the most impossible obstacle. As such, you should never give up no matter how impossible the obstacle seems.

Finally, weight loss was an obstacle I overcame, and I learned that I can succeed in anything I put my mind to with hard work. With an obstacle so hard to overcome, many ways can be found to succeed and overcome it. Failure with my obstacle happened for almost a decade, and I still managed to overcome it. After many years of failure, success happened. Once the obstacle is beat, things are learned and used for later challenges that present themselves. The results later showed when I saw the change in my physique, which was like day and night. That is what gets accomplished when a lesson is learned from failing, only to later succeed and beat whatever obstacle is in the way.

Sample Essay #4 (299 words)

Art

Art has always been a big part of my life. Ever since I was able to pick up a pencil, I have been spending time trying to improve my skills. It provides me with a way to get away from everything and completely focus on something that I am very passionate about and love to do. When I am painting, drawing, sculpting, coloring, or doing just about anything that has to do with art, I lose complete track of time. I have dedicated so much of my time trying to learn new skills and as much as I can about art. It is something I have always talked about and taken seriously.

This past summer I have been working on my most recent oil painting of Jesus and have improved and learned new techniques and skills to better my work. I am so grateful to have an art teacher as gifted and amazing as the one I have now. She inspires me and pushes me to work harder and do better every single day, showing me that there is no limit to what I can accomplish with my artwork. She is my go-to when I need advice or help on almost anything. She is one of my biggest supporters and I love and thank her for that. I have been working on this Jesus portrait for a month now. Working with oil has taught me how to be patient with my art. It shows me that the longer you work with a piece, the better it gets with time. Without art, it would feel as if a piece of me has gone missing; I would feel lost without it. It gives me a way to express and put my thoughts and feelings into something that can actually be seen.

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NOTE: The title is not part of the word count. You can include the prompt at the top if you so desire; it is also not part of the word count.