Creative Reflection for Essay Writing

An 8-session creative writing program to help students write effective Personal Statement Essays and Niche Supplemental Essays for American universities and scholarship programs

Brainstorm →→→→ Ideas →→→→ Narratives →→→→ Final Essays

Instructor: **Sam Korsmoe**, an American writer who is near-fluent in Vietnamese, has taught writing for more than 10 years, and has written and published three books. He is the founder of the **Saigon Writers Club**, a creative writing program that has hosted six creative writing courses and published three short story anthologies since 2021.

Program Offering

- Eight one-hour sessions taught online and/or in-person (small group or individually)
- Each session combines lectures, discussions, hands-on activities, and editing of essays
- Homework is assigned after each session and is marked up and returned to the student with suggestions for improvements
- The end deliverable is a high-quality, final draft personal statement essay (PSE) with multiple backup topics and themes that are ready to be developed into additional final draft essays and answers to supplemental questions

PART ONE: What to write about?

Brainstorm →→→→→ Ideas →→→→→ Narratives

Primary Goal: Develop a list of interesting themes and topics for a compelling and original personal statement essay and begin to write several sample paragraphs on various topics and themes from this list.

Number of sessions: five

1. Brainstorm lists of topics and ideas (childhood memories, favorite holidays, books, movies, experiences, work/volunteer experience, friendships, etc…) and discuss how each could become a PSE topic.

2. Prepare lists and notes of key life lessons learned and the most important influences and experiences obtained by the student up to this point in time in their lives and discuss the relevance of these themes to the PSE and supplementary questions.

3. Develop qualitative and quantitative lists of the student's comparative advantages and unique skills with sufficient details on each to draw upon for future essays. The focus is on converting a comparative advantage into an essay topic.

4. Discussion of and development of how the student can 'Change The World' and create a legacy for his/her future generations. This would include Bucket List ideas as well as 'Job v. Career' choices in life that can be used for the PSE as well as 'Why major?' questions.

5. Understanding and using metaphors and symbols in essay writing. This includes preparing lists of potential metaphors and symbols and test writing them to fit the PSE format.

PART TWO: How to get started writing?

Narratives →→→→→ Draft Essays →→→→→ Edited Essays →→→→→ Final Essays

Primary Goal: Completion of three or four draft essays of 800 to 1,000 words each that is crafted for a university admissions and scholarship committee reader. The essay should contain the core characteristics of the student and how he/she stands out and is a viable candidate for university admission or to be awarded a scholarship. The students choose three topics/themes from the previous sessions work.

Number of sessions: 3

6. Writing Mechanics – The focus is on the creation of short, medium, and long sentences; effective paragraphing and transitions; and creating a writing structure that is solid and stands out.

7. Voice and Style – The focus is on the development of a writer's voice and style within the essay format. This includes effective word choice and strong use of effective examples and potentially metaphors and symbols. The writing should resonate with the reader and cause them to remember the essay the following day.

8. Standing Out – The focus is on the writing of effective hooks and leads and then endings and final impressions of the essay so it is noticeable and stands out from the others. This is done by effective use of, among other tools, dialogue, showing not telling, metaphors, symbols, childhood memories, and other creative writing skills.

By the end of the eight sessions, the student should have two or three essays that are close to the final draft stage. This is a 650-word essay that reflects the strengths and potential of the student for entry into a quality university or to be competitive to win a scholarship. In addition, there should be several short paragraphs that can be used to answer supplementary questions.

How to sign up

The signup process for the **Saigon Writers Club** creative reflection essay program is very simple. Send an email to Sam Korsmoe at sam@yespi.net with the following information included:

Name:
Email Address:
Telephone Number:
Native Language:
Current Year/Grade of High School:
Desired destination for university studies (country):

The tuition fee for this program varies by group size as follows (maximum of six students):

- One-to-one private sessions with instructor Sam Korsmoe – VND 8,000,000 / student
- Two to four students with instructor Sam Korsmoe – VND 6,000,000 / student
- Five to six students with instructor Sam Korsmoe – VND 5,000,000 / student

Bank: BIDV
Account Holder: Huynh Thi Kim Thao
Account Number: 31110001337187

If you have any questions, please call Sam directly at 0904 347 591.

Thank You!!

Sam Korsmoe

Founder and Lead Instructor **Saigon Writers Club**

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