

Personal Statement: Narrative

Students will write a short personal essay reflecting on one of the following quotes. The quotes were selected because they are examples of the use of gerunds. The gerunds are underlined in each quote.

Students begin by discussing each quote. Who is the author? What does each quote mean? Does each quote suggest a way to live? How could each quote be applied to real life situations?

Next, students select the one quote with which they most identify. Students should think of an event or situation from their own life that applies to the quote. Students pre-write a quick story map of this event.

To conclude pre-writing, students should look for an event or situation from current events, history, literature, or popular culture that illustrates the truth of the quote and pre-write a quick story map of the major points in this narrative.

Students then write a four paragraph personal essay.

- I. Introduction—introduce the quote and author, explain the meaning of the quote
- II. Personal connection—relate the narrative of student's personal connection to the quote
- III. External connection—relate the narrative of the external connection to the quote
- IV. Conclusion—relate the importance of the quote to life

Quotes with Gerunds

Seeing much, suffering much, and studying much are the three pillars of learning.

Benjamin Disraeli, British Statesman

Knowing others is wisdom; knowing yourself is enlightenment.

Lao Tzu, Chinese Philosopher

True knowledge exists in knowing that you know nothing.

Socrates, Greek Philosopher

The most important single ingredient for success is knowing how to get along with people.

Theodore Roosevelt, US President

Creativity is allowing yourself to make mistakes. Art is knowing which ones to keep.

Scott Adams, Cartoonist (Dilbert)

All the art of living lies in a fine mingling of letting go and holding on.

Havelock Ellis, British Psychologist.

Coming together is a beginning, keeping together is progress, working together is success.

Henry Ford, American Automaker

Life isn't about finding yourself. Life is about creating yourself.

George Bernard Shaw, British Playwright

The important thing is not to stop questioning. Curiosity has its own reason for existing.

Albert Einstein, German Physicist

Perseverance is failing nineteen times and succeeding the twentieth.

Julie Andrews, English Actress and Singer