

My P.O.V: This I Believe Assignment

This fall, you completed a “This I Believe” Essay and it’s time to give it another try after almost a year of learning and becoming more skilled writers. You will use **the elements of narrative non-fiction that we have studied to help you write honestly and creatively!**

Why are we doing this?

This I Believe essays are potentials for your college essays or supplements and are really good practice for writing the college essay, if nothing else!

To Complete this, you will need to:...

- Visit my website This I Believe page for materials (in our Narrative Non-Fiction section)
- Read This I Believe essays (many!) to get a feel for the possibilities
- Review The format of This I Believe
- Complete at least ONE brainstorm from my web page
- Write at least ONE draft
- Write a final *This I Believe*, submit it online and share it with me on google docs **by MAY 19th**

REMEMBER:

1. **It’s all about you** – Write about you and your thoughts. Tell us your story in the first person, and try to avoid sentences like “We feel this way.”

2. **Keep it personal** – Don’t try to use words or phrases you wouldn’t normally say. Remember, if you wouldn’t be comfortable saying the words out loud, it is probably too formal.

3. **Timing is everything** – Make sure that you read your finished essay out loud. It shouldn’t be more than three minutes long when read at a normal speaking rate.

4. **Say what you *do* believe**, not what you *don’t* – Write about what you think, but not at the expense of others. Keep the focus on you, and what you believe, not what you disagree with.

5. **Have fun!** How many times are you allowed to be 100% free with your choice of topic, and what you want to say about it? This is your chance to write about your personal philosophy of life, so don’t be shy—let it out!

Rubric:

NY

MS

ES

Create: Produce or develop a product for expression.		Your essay follows the structure of a This I Believe essay. You clearly state a personal philosophy and support this belief using your personal story.	In addition to Meeting standards, your essay expresses a philosophy statement that leaves the reader thinking in a new way. You clearly utilize the qualities of narrative non-fiction to craft your essay.
Be Precise: Accurately represents solutions, ideas, and language.		Any errors in grammar and mechanics do not take away from the reading of your essay. You may attempt to use sophisticated vocabulary to express yourself. You attempt to vary your sentence length and structure.	You have no noticeable errors in grammar and mechanics and appropriately use sophisticated vocabulary to express yourself. You successfully vary your sentence length and structure.

