

1. What is the PURPOSE of writing my essay? Write this at the top of your page in **red**.
2. Do I TELL the reader things when I can instead SHOW? Highlight these areas that need to be fixed in **yellow**.
 - For example: Can I change a sentence to where I TELL “I’m tired” to SHOWING this?
3. Do I include SELF-REFLECTION in my essay? Highlight this in **blue**.
4. Do I include imagery, figurative language, or vivid description in my writing? Highlight this in **green**.
5. Identify and note details in your personal narrative that reflect your core values and personality traits. Do you tell your audience you possess these traits, or do you prove them with details?
6. In order to avoid telling instead of showing, identify places in your narrative where you can insert dialogue and *italicized thought shots*.
7. Look for generic and “to be” verbs and try to replace them with vivid, emotionally-connotative verbs.
8. The best essays follow the “20/80” rule – 20% narrative, 80% reflection.