

Their Eyes Were Watching God Personal Statement

Throughout the novel *Their Eyes Were Watching God* we are studying Janie's journey toward self-identity. For this assignment, you will reflect on where you come from and your own journey by responding to **ONE** of the following prompts:

1. Describe the most significant challenge you have faced and the steps you have taken to overcome this challenge. How has this challenge affected your academic achievement?
2. Describe an accomplishment or event, formal or informal, that marked your transition from childhood to adulthood within your culture, community, or family.
3. Reflect on a time when you challenged a belief or idea. What prompted you to act? Would you make the same decision again?
4. What would you say is your greatest talent or skill? How have you developed and demonstrated that talent over time?

Format and requirements:

- Your piece must be at least 300 words, but no more than 500.
- You must incorporate our study of the book in your writing by either incorporating one of the themes of the novel that we have discussed OR by incorporating one of the literary devices that we have examined.

Themes:

- the struggle to find and define one's identity
- the tensions between love, relationships and independence
- voice, language and power
- gender roles
- If another theme has come up in discussion that you'd like to incorporate, get approval from Ms. Libby.

Literary Devices

- Metaphor
- Simile
- Vernacular/dialect or colloquial language
- Symbolism
- If another device has come up in discussion that you'd like to incorporate, get approval from Ms. Libby.

Timeline:

9/22 Personal Statement Assigned; brainstorming

9/26 Prompt chosen

10/3 Draft due/Check-in and Sharing

10/4 Personal Statement due (by end of class) – you will submit pre-writing work, too.

TEWWG Personal Statement Rubric

	Exceeding Expectations	Meeting Expectations	Approaching Expectations	Below Expectations
Analysis	<p>Demonstrates fresh, reflective thought and insights.</p> <p>Writer thoughtfully analyzes and reflects on all aspects of chosen prompt.</p> <p>Writer's voice is clear and authentic.</p> <p>Addresses the chosen prompt with focus (stays on topic), thoroughly and without filler.</p> <p>Adeptly incorporates required literary themes or devices from <i>TEWWG</i></p>	<p>Essay shows thoughtful reflection.</p> <p>Writer analyzes own thoughts regarding the facts and events.</p> <p>Writer's point of view and voice are clear.</p> <p>Addresses the chosen prompt with focus and without filler.</p> <p>Incorporates required literary themes or devices from <i>TEWWG</i>.</p>	<p>Writer needs more depth in reflection.</p> <p>Contains some interesting ideas, but the writer does not explore them thoroughly.</p> <p>Writer's voice is more formal and academic than personal.</p> <p>Addresses the chosen prompt, but strays or wanders.</p> <p>Attempts to incorporate required literary themes or devices are perfunctory and/or clunky.</p>	<p>Writing lacks reflective thought (is simply a recitation of facts/events)</p> <p>Depth of analysis and reflection is significantly lacking.</p> <p>Statement is entirely academic in tone.</p> <p>Deviates significantly from the chosen prompt.</p> <p>Does not incorporate required literary themes or devices.</p>
Mechanics & Structure	<p>Attends to the genre (personal statement) articulately.</p> <p>The writing flows and shows a high level of sophistication. Strong and specific words are used to convey meaning.</p> <p>There is correct spelling and punctuation throughout. Proofreading is thorough.</p> <p>MLA format is adhered to without errors.</p>	<p>Attends to the genre (personal statement) appropriately.</p> <p>Applies standard, academic English usage and appropriate word choices. Sentences are grammatically correct, but sometimes stiff or choppy.</p> <p>Contains occasional spelling, punctuation, and typographical errors, but the errors are not overly distracting.</p> <p>MLA format is adhered to without errors.</p>	<p>Strays from the genre.</p> <p>There are some errors in grammar and word choice. Sentences may be incomplete or rambling.</p> <p>Contains spelling, punctuation, and typographical errors that distract the reader.</p> <p>Essay contains errors in MLA formatting.</p>	<p>Does not meet guidelines or format of the genre.</p> <p>The paper contains frequent grammatical errors. Sentences are choppy, awkward, and hard to follow. Vocabulary is limited and words are used incorrectly.</p> <p>Spelling, punctuation, and typographical errors significantly distract the reader and inhibit comprehension.</p> <p>Essay contains many MLA formatting errors.</p>

Analysis Grade & Comments:

Mechanics Grade & Comments:

Recommendations for Use in College App: