Personal Essay

Draft Outline

**Directions:** On a sheet of loose-leaf paper, write an MLA header and title the paper, Personal Essay-First Draft. Follow the outline below. Include details and specifics so that your draft ends up being about two pages in length. You may bullet point your rough draft. Note: This is just a draft; therefore you WILL make changes when you begin typing!

* Begin with a **STRONG STATEMENT**
  + Begin the essay with your claim (belief) statement.
  + Add a sentence or two that explains the statement.
* Next, tell a **PERSONAL STORY**
  + Use a story to show the relevance of your claim (belief) statement.
  + Add details so the reader understands the setting and conflict in this story.
* Now, write **COMMENTARY**.
  + Start by rereading your writing so far.
  + Reflect on your story that you shared.
  + What do you feel or wonder about now that you have reread the story?
  + What do people need to understand about you and your claim (belief)?
* Add a **QUOTE OR A BRIEF DIALOGUE.** (The words of someone you know. What your mother, father, sister, brother, friend might say.)
* Now, tell another **PERSONAL STORY**
  + Tell a new story from your life/experience that addresses the claim (belief) in a new way.
  + Be sure this story shows the conflict that caused you to see something in this new way.
* Finally, add another **STRONG STATEMENT** and **COMMENTARY.**
  + End by explaining the new insight you have on your claim (belief) and any additional thoughts or feelings you have about it.
  + Try to push your thinking to a personal insight you now live by. (How did this change your life? Your thinking?)