Kernel Essay Model

The Story of My Thinking by Robin Perez

My truth: Things turn out different than how you picture them.

Idea Organizer: The Story of My Thinking

I used to think . . .

Then this happened:

So I had to . . .

I used to think that having a puppy to take care of would be fun and pretty easy.

I got a puppy.

Now I know that puppies are time-consuming and mine keeps me very busy even though I love her a lot.
Kernel Essay Model

Life Lesson by Amy King

My truth: Anything’s possible.

Idea Organizer: Life Lesson

A life lesson I’ve learned → One way I know it → Another way I know it → Another way I know it → What I’d like to remember about this lesson

You don’t know what you can do until you try.

One way I know it is that I have seen a girl who has leg braces climb a rock wall.

I also know because my dog learned to sit at only 2½ months old.

Another way I know it is because I have walked across a tightrope with only a harness to support me!

I’d like to remember to always keep trying everything.
Kernel Essay Model

Comparing Notes by Kimberly Grauer

My truth: Don’t rush to generalize.

Idea Organizer: Comparing Notes

What some people think → What other people think → What I think → What that tells me

Some people think that stepmothers are evil.

Other people believe a stepmother might not be evil, but she is definitely taking their father away from them.

I think my stepmother is wonderful.

All this tells me is that it depends on the stepmother, and that all stepmothers are different.
Kernel Essay Model

Memory Reflections by Juanita Stevenson

My truth: You can discover things about yourself when you least expect.

I was on my couch and was holding my baby cousin. Then she started to fall asleep! I had to stay still for about 20 minutes. I was mesmerized by how warm and soft she was. I realized how much I love babies and want to have one of my own.

Idea Organizer: Memory Reflections

Where I was → Moment it started → Next moment → Final moment → What I realized

My truth: You can discover things about yourself when you least expect.
Kernel Essay Model

Wrong Assumption by Diana Diaz

My truth: First impressions aren’t always accurate.

Idea Organizer: Wrong Assumption

I made this wrong assumption → _____ happened as a consequence → I learned this truth → So now I believe

From just looking at Jen, I thought of her as conceited and stuck-up, and I told my friend that.

What I said went around and Jen ended up finding out so I ended up having to explain things and got to know her that way.

I realized she was really sweet and such a nice person.

So now I believe that a person’s impressions can definitely change.
Kernel Essay Model

Sensory Associations by Julee Lanum

My truth: A memory can make you happy and sad at the same time.

Idea Organizer: Sensory Associations

When I hear/smell/see . . .

It reminds me of

Which makes me feel . . .

The reason I feel that way is . . .

When I smell homemade tacos . . .

I think about my grandma who passed away.

It makes me happy, but her memories make me sad.

I feel this way because she would always make tons of food and she loved tacos, and because I miss her.
People always go on and on about how their first kiss was so great that it made them see stars.

But when my first kiss came around, the only thing I remember is feeling embarrassed and wanting to jump out of my second-story window.

Having your partner say, "I've had better" afterwards can usually make you feel horrible.

But I know my first kiss impacted my life because it made me realize that there are things in life I can and most definitely will improve on.

My truth: Practice makes perfect.

Idea Organizer: Something Big

What the spectacular event was

How it made me feel

Why it made me feel that way

What it made me realize
I’ve never been sure whether my father has any affection for me.

But I’ve always suspected that...

Because once I experienced...

Which made me think that...

And finally I realized that...

I’ve never been sure if...

I suspect he does, but that somehow he just has trouble showing it.

Once, my friend’s car broke down and we didn’t have our cell phones with us, so I got home really late. He was up and all worried, almost crying.

Which made me think that he really cares about me.

I’ve finally realized that he loves me “in a foreign language” and that I have to “translate” to understand.

My truth: People have different ways of expressing love.

Idea Organizer: Finding Out for Sure
Kernel Essay Model

Making a Change by Heather Ross

My truth: Practice makes perfect.

I wanted to change the way my mother feels about my boyfriend.

But every time the issue came up it turned into a big drama.

I knew that the only way she would change her feelings is if she spent more time with him and got to know him more.

So now I try to invite him to join our family more so she can see more sides of him.

Idea Organizer: Making a Change

I wanted to change

But ______ was stopping me

Even though I knew . . .

So now I . . .
Kernel Essay Model

Learning from Mistakes  by Artemis Martinez and Justin Garza

My truth: Some fun isn’t worth the trouble.

Idea Organizer: Learning from Mistakes

One way I got in trouble → What happened after that → What I thought about my consequences → What I realize now

One way I got in trouble was when I got caught skipping school. → After that the school called my house and my mom found out. → Then I thought about the probable consequences: I’d fall behind in my classes, and I wouldn’t be able to go anywhere for a while. → So now I think the price of that bit of fun was just too high.