“When a defining moment comes along, you define the moment or the moment defines you. I did not shrink from the challenge, I rose to it. If I had it to do all over again, I’d still hit that shot.” (Roy in Tin Cup)

**Task:**

For this essay, you will write a 3-4pg expository essay about the defining moment of your interviewee’s life that he/she either rose to the challenge or he/she shrank from it.

**Questions to Liven Up You Essay:**

1. **Act:** What happened? What is the action? What is going on? What action; what thoughts?
2. **Scene:** Where is the act happening? What is the background situation?
3. **Agent:** Who is involved in the action? What are their roles?
4. **Agency:** How do the agents act? By what means do they act?
5. **Purpose:** Why do the agents act? What do they want?

**PAPER FORMAT:**

1. 1000+ (about 3.5-4 pages).
2. All drafts must be typed and double-spaced.
3. Size 12 Times New Roman Font
4. Have Name, Class, Date, Assignment, and Topic in upper left hand corner.
5. A title that is not GENERIC
6. All drafts, pre-writing, and outline must be turned in with the final copy of the essay

**DUE DATES:**

- Your Thesis Statement and Outline for Essay #1 is due on____________
- Your First Draft is due on____________
- **Take** Rough Draft and meet with a Writing Center tutor for Tutoring is due on____________
- Final Draft in a FOLDER with all previous writing stapled to it is due on____________

**Folder Checklist:**

- Interview Notes
- Outline with thesis statement
- Rough Draft
- Writing Center Sheet (WRITING Lab is located in the Library)
- Final Draft
- **Grading Sheet**
Essay Requirements:

• An introduction that provides context on the topic, eases the reader into your essay, and has a “hook” that grabs people’s attention.
• A thesis statement or controlling idea that takes a strong stand.
• Transitional topic sentences that are clear, provocative, develop your thesis, and provide unity in your essay.
• The story should have an introduction that clearly indicates what kind of story the essay will tell, and it should have a conclusion that makes a point.
• Your essay should have a clear organization structure: Time order, Space Order, Order of Importance, etc.
• The story should include anecdotes. The author should describe the person, the scene, or the event in some detail. It’s okay to include dialogue as long as you know how to punctuate it correctly and as long as you avoid using too much.
• The occasion or person described must be suggestive in that your description and thoughts lead the reader to reflect on the human experience. For instance, I read an excellent student essay that told the story of a young woman forced to shoot several wolves that were attacking her cattle. She told her story and included the inner struggle she faced as she made the choice of saving the cattle or saving the wolves. She shot the wolves, but learned that whatever her choice had been, she would not have been comfortable with it. One of life’s lessons is that sometimes there is no right choice, and that was the point of the essay.
• The point of view an expository essays is usually third person.
• The writing in your essay should be lively and show some style. Try to describe ideas and events in new and different ways. Avoid using clichés. Again, get the basic story down, get it organized, and in your final editing process, work on word choice.
• A conclusion that offers some ideas about what can be done about the situation
• Strong sentences that are both grammatically correct and sophisticated
• Use proper MLA in-text citations and Works Cited entries.

A Successful Essay Will Have:

Introduction:
• Should be at least ½ to ¾ of a page long
• Should include background details and schema on your topic, such as “what is the essay about” or “what is the defining moment about”
• Have a clear thesis that includes a concessive (although, though, even though, etc) and guides your reader through your essay. It should not be a list/map thesis.

Body Paragraphs:
• Follow PIE
• Have topic sentences that introduce your paragraphs and are opinions not facts
• Examples from the interview to tell the story
• Effectively introduce quotations using the “quote sandwich.”
• Use quote sandwiches in every paragraph!
• Thoroughly explain your examples with lengthy explanations (E of PIE) that connect back to your thesis and support your argument.

Conclusion:
• Look backward and explain how your body paragraphs proved the thesis
• Look forward and explain what you want the reader to do with your info
• Should be ½ page long!

Works Cited Formula
Last Name of Interviewee, First Name. Personal Interview. Date Interview was Conducted.

In-text citation Formula.
(Interviewee’s Last Name, Page Number of your interview notes)
Example: (Su, 2)
INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

Here is a list of some interview questions to help you get a clear picture of your classmate’s achievement:

- **What is your name?**

- **Is there one moment that defines you either because you are very proud of how you reacted or because you wish you had reacted differently?**

- **What did you do? Please tell me the whole story from the beginning to the end.**

- **What important info happened before this event that can help me understand the set-up for this event?**

- **What sensory details do you remember about your achievement: sight, sound, smell, touch, taste?**

- **Why was this moment important to you? What did you learn about yourself?**

- **When did this moment take place?**

- **Where did this moment take place?**

- **What specific details do you remember about the defining moment?**

- **What did other people think of the defining moment?**

- **How did the moment change the way you looked at yourself? Why?**

- **What advice would you offer to people in a similar situation?**


**Remember** to take notes and to keep asking questions until you feel you can give your readers a vivid sense of your classmate’s achievement.