



# This I Believe

## BELIEFS



Today you are going to be writing your first draft of a “This I Believe” essay. Grab the list of beliefs you came up with last class. Out of the ~five beliefs you came up with, put a star next to the one you want to write about. Make sure to choose one that you will be able to write a half-page to page long narrative (story) about.



## Format for “This I Believe”

For these stories, there is not a set format to use! The only thing I will be looking for is a clear “I Believe” statement in your introduction and clear support for your belief. I will go over a structure you can use, *if* you need structure. However, if you deviate from the structure outlined, that is fine!



# Thesis Statements

THESIS: **SUBJECT** + **WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY ABOUT IT**

For this particular essay, here are 2 examples:

(A): The 3-pronged approach

**I believe that challenges are good** because **they allow us to learn from our mistakes,**  
**become comfortable with change, and grow into well-rounded individuals.**



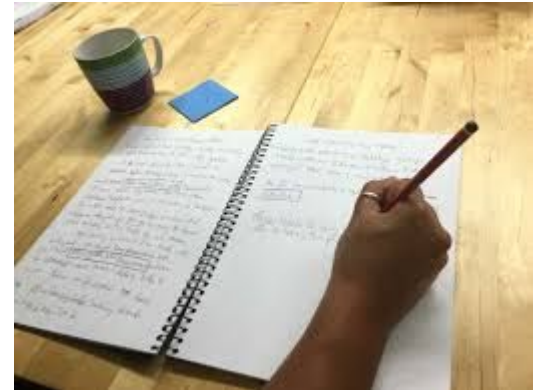
# Thesis Statements

The thesis above lends itself nicely to a five paragraph essay structure, where the three points listed become the three body paragraphs:

1. learn from our mistakes
2. become comfortable with change
3. grow into well-rounded individuals

The **subject** is: Challenges are good

**What I have to say about it:** they allow us to learn from our mistakes, become comfortable with change, and grown into well-rounded individuals



# Thesis Statements

(B): The Inclusive Approach

I believe the challenges we face are the catalyst which allows us to become who we are meant to be.

This thesis does not lay out the specific points that will be addressed in the essay, but it does give a general direction.

The subject is: the challenges we face.

What I have to say about it is: they are the catalyst which allows us to become who we are meant to be.

MAKE SURE YOUR THESIS HAS BOTH A SUBJECT AND A POINT!!!



## Example Format

**Introduction** - this should be an introduction to your topic and a statement of belief

**Body** - support for your belief. How did you come to believe this? How does it guide your life? This is where you support your belief using dialog/quotes, rhetorical questions, anecdotes/personal experiences/examples, or statistics.

**Conclusion** - restate your belief. Add a final thought.

A “This I Believe” essay should be brief! Around 500-600 words (That’s about a half-page to a page)!

this, I  
believe:



## How to support your belief

**Dialogue/Quote** - “If you can’t say something good, don’t say anything at all,” my mother warned me throughout my childhood.

**Rhetorical Question** - “When you are eighty years old, what will you regret that you didn’t do?”

**Anecdote/ Personal Experience/ Example** - tell a narrative (story!) that supports your belief

**Statistic** - Every year, over 1.2 million students drop out of high school in the United States alone. That’s a student every 26 seconds – or 7,000 a day.



## First Draft

You have today and next class period to write your first draft of a “This I Believe” essay. I have examples printed out for you to use as inspiration if you want! They are on the front table!

I will be checking your drafts at the end of the class period. This will be for a participation grade!

