What’s Your Writing Worth?

1. Know who you are writing for (reflect their mission and values).
2. Know what they want from you (know the prompt; seek help to understand!)
3. Create a cohesive thesis (even with separate questions) and be . . .
4. Always be uplifting (don’t be pathetic—no sob stories).
5. Focus on your introduction.
6. Transition like you mean it:
   - End one paragraph with a detail that leads into the next.
   - Repeat key words when progressing an idea.
   - Beware of “and.” Other words are likely more accurate.
   - Show patterns: comparison, general/specific, problem/solution, space, time, cause/effect.
7. Conclude with confidence:
   - Avoid traditional summary since essays are fairly short.
   - Pick a worthy finale by: expanding upon broader implications of your discussion, linking to your introduction for balance, or redefining an important term.
   - Beware the famous quote ending.
8. Never let them be your first reader (writers need readers).
9. Remember, revising is a good thing:
   - Everything’s fair game; don’t just tweak at the sentence level.
   - Delete anything not related to your main theme.
   - Show, don’t tell (think vivid personal experience).
   - Think style, voice, tone, transition.
   - Grammar and spelling always count.
   - Always type.
   - Adhere to word limits.
   - Ask readers for feedback. Again.
10. Choose Letters of Recommendation writers who can complete your desired impression.
Way to be . . .

Original: try a creative opening, like a personal story.

Yourself: stick to stuff with which you have experience.

Real: use big words only if appropriate for your context/style.

Tastefully boastful: highlight accomplishments that are on point.

Considerate: hot topics are okay if you stick to your experience.

Discrete: why admit to weaknesses? Showcase your strengths!

Consistent: even separate questions must convey a guiding theme.

Connected: everything you include should serve a purpose.

Conspicuous: all your competitors want to be [insert dream here], too.

What makes you the BEST choice for this scholarship?

Ask yourself and your readers . . .

What’s my topic?

What do you remember about my topic?

What do you remember about me, the writer?

What lasting impression did I make?