

Student's Name:

Professor's Name

Institution:

Course code:

Date:

Score 88.9

Document formatting is very good, but there is room for improvement. Document formatting issues: page header. [Observations:] {Integrity}: 100%. {Length}: 100%. {Mechanics:} 91% (spelling 100%, grammar 86%, punctuation 96%, word choice 82%). {Citation formatting:} ungraded. {Reasoning, logic:} 79% (efficiency 51%, acuity 82%, clarity 89%, objectivity 94%).

### Personal Essay

The sun was setting, painting the sky with a brilliant palette of warm oranges and deep purples. I stood at the edge of the pier, staring out into the vast expanse of the ocean, mesmerized by the way the waves gently caressed the sandy shore. I was lost in thought, reflecting on the events of the past few weeks, as I had recently experienced a personal loss that left me feeling hollow inside.

As I continued to stare into the horizon, I noticed a young boy, no more than eight years old, playing with a tattered and worn-out soccer ball near the water's edge. His laughter was infectious, and I couldn't help but smile as I watched him chase the ball, his tiny legs kicking up sand as he ran. He was so full of life and energy, and it was a stark contrast to the numbness that had consumed me in the days prior.

Before I knew it, the ball rolled toward me, and the young boy looked at me with wide, expectant eyes. I hesitated for a moment, but then I picked up the ball and kicked it back to him. We spent the next few minutes passing the ball back and forth, and I could feel a small part of the darkness within me beginning to dissipate.

After our impromptu game, the boy ran over to his mother, who was sitting on a nearby bench. As they started to leave, the boy turned back and waved goodbye to me, and I waved back with a genuine smile on my face.

In that moment, I felt an overwhelming sense of gratitude wash over me. I realized that despite my recent loss, I still had so much to be thankful for – my health, my family, and the many opportunities that life had granted me. That simple interaction with the young boy had

reminded me of the power of human connection and the joy that could be found in the most unexpected of places.

With a newfound sense of perspective, I decided to dedicate my time and energy to helping others. I started volunteering at a local soup kitchen and began tutoring children in my neighborhood. I also joined a support group for people who had experienced loss, and through these connections, I found a sense of healing and purpose that I had been desperately searching for.

Over time, I began to truly understand the meaning of gratitude. It wasn't just about being thankful for the material things in life or for the people we loved. It was also about acknowledging the small moments of happiness, the fleeting connections we made with strangers, and the beauty of the world around us.

As I continued on my journey of personal growth, I found myself becoming more compassionate, more empathetic, and more in tune with the needs of others. I discovered that by focusing on the positive aspects of life and expressing gratitude for even the smallest of blessings, I was able to find a sense of inner peace and happiness that had eluded me for so long.

Now, whenever I find myself standing at the edge of the pier, watching the sun dip below the horizon and the waves gently lap against the shore, I am reminded of that young boy and the invaluable lesson he taught me. Through his innocent laughter and the simple act of playing with a worn-out soccer ball, he showed me the power of gratitude and the transformative effect it can have on our lives.

In the end, it wasn't the grand gestures or the monumental achievements that brought me the greatest joy; it was the small, seemingly insignificant moments that filled my heart with gratitude and taught me the true value of life. And for that, I will forever be grateful.