

Last Name

Score 82.2

Student's Name

|Comment:| No formal writing style indicated. Document formatting is good, but there is room for improvement. Document formatting

Professor's Name

issues: vertical spacing; horizontal spacing; body header; page header; font control. |Observations:| {Integrity}: 100%. {Length}:

Institution

100%. {Mechanics:} 90% (spelling 89%, grammar 83%, punctuation 99%, word choice 88%). {Citation formatting:} ungraded. {Reasoning, logic:} 73% (efficiency 51%, acuity 79%, clarity 100%, objectivity 62%).

Date

### Personal essay

Gratitude is a powerful emotion that can uplift our spirits in times of adversity and deepen our connection with ourselves and others. It is a feeling that often arises when we pause to acknowledge the blessings and kindness we have received. In this personal narrative essay, I will share a heartfelt story that exemplifies the overwhelming sense of gratitude I experienced during a chance encounter that changed my perspective on life.

It was a sunny day in early summer, and I decided to take a leisurely stroll through the park near my neighborhood. As I meandered along the winding path, immersing myself in the surrounding nature, I noticed an old man sitting on a bench, his eyes fixated on the sparkling lake ahead. His loneliness was palpable, an unspoken tale etched on his worn face.

Feeling an inexplicable pull, I approached him cautiously and asked if he was okay. His eyes glittered with surprise and gratitude, as though he hadn't expected anyone to reach out. With a soft voice, he began sharing his story. He spoke of a lifetime filled with love, loss, and regrets. His wife, children, and friends had all passed away, leaving him bereft of purpose and companionship. My heart ached for this man, his words tugging at the threads of my compassion, forcing me to confront the frailty of life.

Listening intently, I realized that this serendipitous encounter was an opportunity to reflect on the blessings in my own life. In that moment, my mind became a tapestry of memories depicting

all the kindness I had been bestowed. It was as if a fog of self-absorption lifted, and I saw the world anew through the lens of gratitude.

I began to share my own stories, the moments that had kindled gratitude within me. I spoke of my family, friends, and the numerous people who had shaped my life in extraordinary ways. I expressed my gratitude for the opportunities I had been given, the education that broadened my horizons, and the personal growth I experienced through hardships. It became clear that gratitude was not solely a response to joyful moments but also a mindset through which we could navigate the darkest periods of our lives.

As the sun began to descend, casting a golden hue over the park, the old man and I found solace in our shared vulnerability. No longer mere strangers, we had forged a bond through the recognition of our intertwined stories. In that fleeting encounter, he reminded me of the importance of counting our blessings, cherishing the moments we often take for granted.

Gratitude is a transformative emotion, capable of shifting our perspective and nurturing our souls. The encounter with the old man in the park left an indelible mark on my heart, reminding me of the significance of appreciating the people, experiences, and lessons life offers us. Through his story, I learned that gratitude is not a destination but a journey we embark on each day, a perpetual reminder of the beauty and resilience of the human spirit. I carry that encounter with me, forever grateful for the awakening it brought to my life.