

You brace yourself as your partner collides into you with enormous force, slightly pushing you back as you try to maintain balance with your footings, your eyes darting back as you try to keep yourself from going out of the white boundaries of the wrestling mat.

You really feel like you belong here, like you were born for it, you live for this because it brings out the competitive side of you, the side of you that likes to pick someone up and toss them around.

However, you quit the wrestling team. You said, there was not enough time for school work. Yet your school work was actually fine.

You quit because you didn't want there to be any misunderstandings. You like boys, no one knows you did, you didn't want anyone to know, but you don't want everyone to think you joined the team to touch them. You joined to be competitive, to be strong, to win.

You lived throughout your school life pretending to be normal, you pretend to be normal, and it went pretty well, until you found out about yourself.

Now years went past, you wondered, what would happen if you didn't quit the wrestling team?

Rubric for the Lyrical Essay:

	<i>Needs further revision</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Outstanding</i>
Focus	Identity subject is not clear enough and/or the treatment of the identity subject seems surface-level. Reader cannot really empathize with the interviewee's experience.	Identity subject comes across clearly, but the writer could provide a deeper/more complex view to inspire deeper critical thinking and a more powerful empathetic reading experience.	Lyrical essay delivers a clear and complex portrayal of the identity subject, inspiring deep critical thinking and a powerful empathetic reading experience.
Poetic Language	Poetic language is vague or missing. Or, metaphors or other poetic language fall into cliché territory. Or, metaphors or other poetic language are not appropriate representations of the subject matter.	Writer employs a couple of clear and effective poetic techniques, but they could be more varied. Some specific parts of the lyrical essay would benefit from more poetic language or different poetic techniques. Apt metaphors are present, but could be more specific or original.	Writer employs a variety of poetic techniques (eg. imagery, description,, figurative language, sound, allusion, etc.) to challenge the reader to interpret meaning and enhance sensory experience. Metaphors are fresh, original, and apt representations of the subject matter.
Narrative Elements	Narrative elements are lacking or they are disjointed in a way that obscures the reader's ability to engage in the interviewee's experiences. Narrative perspective is not yet effective.	Narrative elements are present, conveying the interviewee's experiences clearly. However, narrative elements could be further developed to enhance the reader's engagement in the interviewee's experiences. Narrative perspective sustains	Narrative elements (exposition, conflict, characterization, dialogue, etc.) engage the audience in interviewee's experiences. Narrative perspective is highly effective, lending cohesion to the overall piece and allowing the reader to "step into

		the reader's attention consistently.	the shoes" of the interviewee(s).
Mechanics	Lyrical essay contains a many errors of spelling, grammar, and/or punctuation. Errors affect the reader's ability to understand the meaning the author is trying to convey. Significant editing will be necessary before this text is ready to be published.	Lyrical essay contains a few errors of spelling, grammar, and/or punctuation, which can easily be fixed with one final round of editing.	Lyrical essay is free from errors of spelling, grammar, and punctuation.

Grade: B-