

Nestled among narrow row homes and tight city streets of Philadelphia is an expansive brick building reminiscent of a large Catholic High School. There are no classrooms or children. Surrounding it are beautiful gardens with pathways and flowers. The elderly walk these grounds, and right beside them are some of the most selfless people this world has to offer.

Comment: Cliché.

Comment: Too vague—there are 1000s of possibilities here, plus it leads you to negate your comparison immediately.

Comment: Start here, maybe? But, that would mean focusing on the elderly a bit, when you really want get to the nuns. Maybe make it so the nuns are walking the grounds, so we get to them immediately?

When many people think of Philadelphia, they think of nice buildings, tourist attractions, and nice homes, among other things. While all of these things are very nice, one thing that commonly goes unnoticed is the large homeless population. Many people who are homeless throughout the city are people who have lost jobs, lost family support, struggles with drug and alcohol addition, or were simply brought up in a poor upbringing and did not have resources for a good education or employment opportunities.

Comment: How do you know they think of these things? Which many people? Avoid vagueness.

Comment: Too much vague summary. These phrases could be said by any student writing about homelessness. Make your discussion unique to your research. Be descriptive. Invoke emotion. Use the voices you have heard.

Three coffee bars, two brothers, one city. Rival Bros, born in the city of Philadelphia was founded by two pals, Jonathan Adams and Damien Pileggi. Spruce Street, in the heart of Rittenhouse Square runs directly through the spirit of the city. The authentic and artisanal coffee is meant to be shared throughout the neighborhood.

Comment: Your project begs for the senses. Smells, sounds, tastes, feels. Start inside the coffee shop and give us the emotional feeling of being there.

Comment: Not sure how the Spruce Street sentence fits other than remembering that they have a shop there.

Comment: These read like 4 distinct sentences that don't really fit together.

At the heart of our communities is a common story—a culture, traditions, triumphs, and pitfalls. That story is sustained and continued throughout those who live and interact there; that space is marked by it.

Comment: All communities share 1 story?

Comment: All people share that same story? The rich and the poor share the same story? Etc?

Comment: This is much too vague and tries to do too much. Bring us into the street, into the studio, while giving us the sounds and voices of the space.

Since PhillyCam's opening in (year) they have been the voice of the unheard. Mainstream media has taken control of most media outlets. Moreover, the media we are receiving is from one source with a similar agenda, to make money.

Comment: Okay. Now, rather than moving to statements about media, give us those voices. Who are the unheard and what have they been saying? Without them, this reads like cliché.

Every vendor has a street corner. Keith's is at 10th and South. Charles' is at 13th and Sansom. Maria's is at Market and Chestnut. They are at these corners to sell papers, and more importantly everybody has a story as to why they sell them. The paper they are selling is One Step Away, a street paper written by and sold by people who have and are experiencing homelessness. While the stories and corners are different, the paper brings them together. For the vendors selling One Step Away is an opportunity, a job, and once a week a chance to meet up.

Comment: Good opening. Gets right to the people. Now I want to hear their voices. Choose one—the most engaging, the most emotional, the most enlightening, etc.—and start telling their story.

Comment: Work this in later. We need a story. That is, we need to hear a voice.

After the tour of the historical building, and the rooms they turned into the art offices, we sat down to begin our interview. While on the tour, James explained the building but was also explaining parts of his life. As I conducted the interview I made him retell some of the information he already told me. He informed me about his personal life- wife, kids, college education, Philadelphia native and of course, why art has always been such a strong passion for him.

Comment: Much too general. What building? What rooms? Why is conducting an interview the thing you want to highlight?

Comment: Remove yourself from the discussion.

Comment: This. This right here is where you should begin—with his passion, in his words, not a summary. From passion to murals...

On a cold November morning in Wilmington, Delaware an overwhelming warmth ascends over Dupont Children's Hospital as hundreds of individuals gather for the annual Walk for Wishes. Many of the children currently facing illnesses may be at a time in their life where they feel trapped in the cold, frigid air—a time where all they yearn for is a touch of warmth. That is exactly what the Make-a- Wish organization brings to ill children. In times of extreme adversity while facing life-threatening illnesses, the wish experience enriches the lives impacted with hope, strength, and joy. All the individuals at the Walk for Wishes on this morning share one thing in common— a mutual passion for the mission of Make-a- Wish. This is evident by the amount of people that came out early on a bitterly cold, cloudy morning in which heavy rain was forecasted for during the event. People still came which ties back to the very roots of the Make- a-Wish organization— being there in times when the forecast is not too great.

Comment: Much too long a sentence to start. Remember pacing and economy of language.

Comment: "Many" . . . "may" – much too vague and general. Specifics. We need specifics.

Comment: The movement from warm air to hope is tenuous here.

Comment: Are you sure? All of them?

Comment: But it was getting warmer?

This is the trouble with vague extended metaphors: they often get caught in the specifics. Rather than telling us what was happening, show us. Give us the sights and sounds and emotions and feelings. Give us the voices you heard. Make us feel like we are there with you.

Life is full of ups and downs. While we as humans will experience the highest of highs, we will also experience the lowest of lows. Sometimes during these lows, we rely on others to help pick us back up. For some, this comes in the form of someone close to them: a family member, a friend, a teacher, or significant other. Others deal with stressful or painful moments in simple ways, like a momentary escape to a beach or a trip to see their favorite sports team. However, there is another way that is available that offers both a simple escape from reality and a gentle touch of comfort: and that is through the help of Comfort/Therapy Dogs.

Comment: Too much cliché throughout. Yes, we know life has ups and downs, the people deal with stress differently, etc. Rather, give us specifics, emotion, a voice that makes real what the clichés are trying to get at.

What can community- oriented organizations do to improve education quality and opportunities in underprivileged neighborhoods? Privately funded institutions such as The Providence Center contribute to the city's wellbeing and productivity by implementing education into the daily lives of students who do not receive enough assistance from the public school systems. It is imperative that these types of systems improvise for the lack of political and social aid that public policy provides to these undernourished areas. The broken foundation for this demographic is in desperate need of repair, but with the help of these types of foundations, citizens are able to have a larger opportunity to succeed.

Comment: Avoid starting with rhetorical questions.

Comment: This is much too academic. Too formal. And too vague as an opening statement paragraph. Bring us into the space. Give us a voice that we can latch onto. Give us the emotions. Make me feel something that will result in me reading the story.

Comment: What type of systems?

Comment: Which demographic?

Comment: A bit cliché.