Personality Sketch

How to write it so the reader wants to read it!
Hit the Highlights

- Highlight high interest material in different colors for easy recognition
  » **Headline content**
  » **Lead & conclusion details**
  » **Informational facts**
  » **Important figures**
  » **Insightful feelings (quotes)**
180 days of school
Tests—pencil and paper—party animals sleeping in and being lazy—fun in the sun in exotic locations such as Hawaii.

Young Life camp or Camp Fitch, spending the night at Cedar Point, flying down to Florida, driving to Virginia, college campus tours.
Surveyed—3 out of 10 went away. Others stayed in town.
82 percent polled overslept—rest stayed on schedule.
Summer was 95 days long.
90% dreaded the 3-4 routine of back-to-school.
First day of school: September 3.
The week school ended my dad and I went to Oahu. It was amazing. He let me take my best friend Jenny and we spent everyday on the beach watching the surfers. I got up earlier during the summer to watch the incredible sunrises than I did during the regular school year. Is that sick or what? Senior Cate Humphagesummer.

Practices were tough, especially when one of us had to be gone for an entire week. We would just about master a sequence of plays and then one of us would be gone with the family or off to a summer camp.—Terry Keifer.

This proved to be the best summer ever. Since I had my license and a car for the first time, I asked my mom if I could drive to the concert in Chicago and when she said yes, I freaked out. I just knew she wouldn’t let me even though it’s only an hour away.—Cameron Larsen.

Some days I didn’t even get out of bed until after lunch. It was Heaven. Dad let me stay up as late as I wanted, but Mom always woke me up before she left for work and left me notes of stuff to do. Not a bad life considering I got in about four hours of sun everyday. Stephanie Sanchez.

We had cross country practice every morning at 5 a.m. to beat the heat. Then I would rush home to shower and go to work until eight or nine—junior Katherine Feather—Dog on a Stick at the Mall.

I did different fund-raising activities for Young Life camp, but it was worth it. We did everything there; the swimming was unbelievable and everyday. My favorite part was working with the younger kids, they know how to live it up at camp.—Sophomore Joey Glase.
Feature Writing

- Combines facts, figures & feelings into one main, cohesive story

  » Lead
  » Quotes/Transitions
  » Conclusion
The Right Angle

- Determine your approach
- Readers’ wants & needs
- Single or multiple angles

Introduce and showcase the most important aspect in headline & lead
Your Assignment

- Due saved in your folder by the beginning of class on Tuesday, September 16

- Type your notes and save in your H Drive\JOURNALISM 1\PERSONALITY SKETCH folder in a Word document. Save as Highlighted Notes.

- Highlight your notes using the Word highlighting function (keep your letters black).

- At the top, type your angle and bullet and type your ideas that support it.
If only Jessi Kindley, freshman, knew how scary her first solo river rafting experience would be, then maybe she wouldn’t have started out on class five rapids. Call her an adventure junkie.
Feature Story – Personality Sketch

Quotation > While she has only been rafting on the Deschutes River, she said that she “would love to go on Snake River, even though it is super expensive because of how dangerous it is,” Kindley said. “I actually have no idea where it is, but I’m up for the challenge.”

Transition > That describes Kindley to a tee. She’s always up for trying new things, like river rafting.
“I got started in river rafting because of my parents. One time they were going on a rafting trip, so I decided to tag along. It was the first time for all of us. I fell in love with rafting after that day,” Kindley said.

Kindley now feels comfortable rafting her own boat, instead of having five or six people with her. If there’s a place where Kindley feels the most confident, it definitely has to be the river, where one wrong turn of her oar could fling her into the freezing cold rapids. Kindley feels most self-assured on the water.
Even though she adores river rafting, she doesn’t think of it as a future profession. She would much rather be a genetic counselor because she loves studying the science in her biology class.

“I love genetics and I love studying it. There’s no specific reason, I just enjoy learning about how we inherit certain traits from our parents,” she said.

Kindley loves having adventure in her life, and she hopes river rafting is only the beginning of a lifelong journey of excitement and challenge.
Take the Lead [writing]

–Dos

»*Do feature the most important aspect of the story in the first 5-7 words*

»*Do focus on information & insights that reader doesn’t already have*

»*Do incorporate visual nouns & action verbs*

»*Do keep it simple*
Take the Lead [writing]

–Don’ts

» Don’t begin with a, an or the
» Don’t use “this year” or the school name, initials or mascot
» Don’t incorporate editorialized adjectives or adverbs
» Don’t begin with names
Quality Quotes

– Good

» “This summer was the best. I didn’t have to go on the family vacation.”

– Great

» “This summer will go down as one of the best in history for me. Instead of having to go on the family vacation, I got to tour France with friends from my French class.”
Smooth Transitions

–Good

» Other students didn’t get to sleep in.

–Great

» A commanding 82% sleepyhead majority crawled out of bed well after the traditional start of school while only a very few kept the same schedule of the academic year.
– Good

So that’s how students spent their summer.

– Great

After 95 days of some work and mostly play, summer sizzle fizzled and over 90% dreaded the 8-4 routine of back-to-school on D(readed)-day, September 3.
Writing Quality

– Fresh, lively angles
– Informational & insightful
  » Little-known, fascinating facts & figures
  » One-of-a-kind, quotable quotes
– Attention to the five senses
– Accuracy
– Refined style after revision
Lazy writing

Boring or non-descriptive nouns

• Dog  or?
• Band member or?
• Soccer player or?

Weak verbs/passive voice

• Appears, seems
• Is, are, was, were, be, being, been, get, got
Personality profile - common elements

Interview subject in class. While interviewing and writing the profile, keep these elements of the personality profile in mind:

- Lead
- Generalize
- Flashback?
- Future
- Conclusion
Lead anecdote.

- Try to listen for a story that is most interesting about the person’s achievements, personality or character. What distinguishes this person from others?
- Be descriptive. Show, don't tell.

*If only Jessi Kindley, freshman, knew how scary her first solo river rafting experience would be, then maybe she wouldn’t have started out on class five rapids. Call her an adventure junkie.*
Generalize.

- Expand on the idea the lead introduces.
- This requires a basic and brief summary of the individual's character and how the anecdote reflects these traits.

That describes Kindley to a tee. She’s always up for trying new things, like river rafting.
Flashback?

- How did the subject get to where they are today?

“I got started in river rafting because of my parents. One time they were going on a rafting trip, so I decided to tag along. It was the first time for all of us. I fell in love with rafting after that day,” Kindley said.
Future.

What are the subject's hopes, goals and plans for the future.

Even though she adores river rafting, she doesn’t think of it as a future profession. She would much rather be a genetic counselor because she loves studying the science in her biology class.
Conclusion

◦ Your closing should neatly conclude your story with either an appropriate quote or anecdote.
◦ There should be a theme or focus to your story.
◦ Perhaps this will reference the lead anecdote to tie the story together.

Kindley loves having adventure in her life, and she hopes river rafting is only the beginning of a lifelong journey of excitement and challenge.