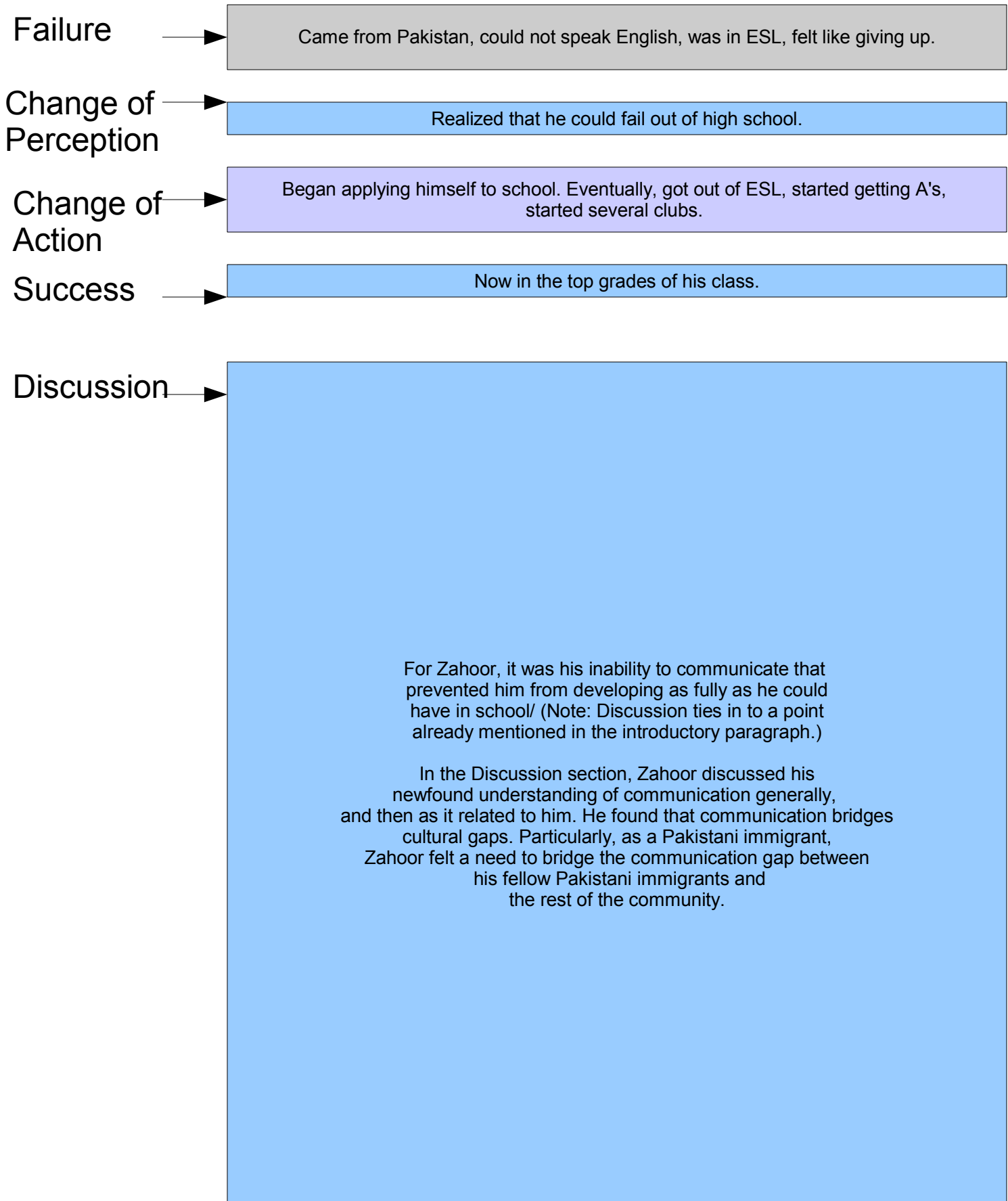


Anatomy of a Personal Essay Model

Zahoor's Story



Discussion Continued



Tie in Discussion with future goals



Zahoor's personal goal is to become a doctor, and practice in his community providing healthcare to people who would otherwise not be able to communicate their illness because of language barriers.

(Note: See how Zahoor connects his future goals to his past experience and what he has overcome.)

Zahoor then tied that in to what higher education meant to him personally.

Important Note: Your essay has to resemble the flowchart in the flow of the argument. Zahoor's essay does it subtly without being obvious. Most personal essays received by admissions committees use up to 2 pages for the material you will cover in the introduction, which leaves an impression that you expect to get admitted on the basis of pity than for what you have accomplished *in spite of* obstacles. By following these guidelines, you ensure that the focus of the essay is on demonstrating your character —both in action, and in thoughtful discussion.