To complete the application for Northern Kentucky University’s counseling programs, one must submit a writing sample. This may be a paper from your undergraduate/graduate studies that you believe evidences your academic capacities. It may also be a new paper (3-5 pages, double-space, Times New Roman, 12-point font), written in response to one of the following prompts:

* Everyone has some way of understanding or making sense of what goes on in the world, especially when it relates to human behavior. Please share your understanding of human behavior. How would you define/explain what leads people to think, feel, and act the way they do?
* Please describe what you believe to be the top five characteristics of an effective counselor, detailing the importance of each within the role. Which of the five characteristics do you believe represents your greatest strength? Which of the five do you believe represents your most significant area for growth?
* What qualities traits, attitudes, values, and convictions do you consider central to the person you are? How might these personal characteristics be assets in the counseling profession? How might they be liabilities?
* A man had been sentenced to prison for ten years. After one year, however, he escaped from the prison, moved to a new area of the country and took the name Eustace Polhemu. For eight years he worked hard, and gradually he saved enough money to buy his own business. He was fair to his customers, gave his employees top wages, and gave most of his own profits to charity. Then one day Mrs. Hladik, a former neighbor, recognized him as the man who had escaped from prison eight years before and for whom the police had been looking. Should Mrs. Hladik report Eustace to the police and have him sent back to prison? Please detail the rationale for your decision, explaining the factors you considered and the process(es) you followed to arrive at the answer.