

Writing the College Admissions Essay



There is no ‘magic recipe’ to writing the perfect admissions essay. However, we can offer you a few tips on writing one that can help you get over the “fear factor” of getting it done.

Be Yourself. Choose a topic that you know about, or are passionate about. Use your own words, writing about what you know, rather than what you think the admissions committee wants to hear.

Hint: You can use the essay to describe a favorite activity, to tell a story about yourself, or even a story about your dog, but make sure to really use it in a way that captures the readers attention and shows that you are exceptional.

Be Creative. Try to come up with a topic that is unique, but not over-the-top. Admissions Officers sometimes read thousands of essays per year; let yours be the one they remember!

Give Them What They Ask For. Read your directions and follow them to a tee! If you are not sure what they are asking for, do not be afraid to call the admissions office and ask. Nothing could be worse than writing an essay about your “My best summer vacation”,

when the topic that you were asked to write about was actually “Who do you admire most and why?”

Review, Revise, Reword. Write a draft of your essay. Read it through and revise it as you see fit. Ask a parent, teacher, or counselor to read it for you as well. Oftentimes another set of eyes can find errors that we overlook, and they can let you know if the topic that you are writing about is clear to the reader. Remember to spell check and grammar check. **Their** are many words that can be spelled many ways that your spell check will not catch, but your grammar check will.

Aim for Perfection. Remember, there could be a lot riding on this essay. This is usually your first opportunity to present yourself to the Admissions Office, and first impressions are generally the ones that last the longest. You want to present yourself in the best light that you can by being as error-free as possible.



