



Tips for Writing the College Essay

Writing an essay is an important part of the college application process. How do you make your essay good enough to stand out from all the rest? Here are some tips to help you make your essay shine.

Things to Do

- Stay focused on a specific, narrow topic.
- Use an attention-getting introduction. You want to grab the reader's attention right away.
- Highlight your personality. Use funny, moving, or interesting personal anecdotes.
- Share personal experiences. These stories can be things like a difficult decision or a life-changing moment.
- Use active language and vivid details. When you edit your essay, make sure to check for places where you can liven up your language.

Things to Avoid

- Don't ramble or take too long to get to the point.
- Don't try to cover too much information or too many ideas.
- Stay away from uncomfortable topics.
- Don't brag. There's a big difference between highlighting your accomplishments and bragging about how fabulous you are.
- Avoid a tone that's overly philosophical or dramatic.
- While punching up your language is a good thing, don't go too far and use clichés or big words you don't know just to try to look impressive.

Overall, remember you want to engage your reader. If you give your reader a sense of your personality, you will help differentiate yourself from other applicants.