

Top Ten Tips for Writing a College Essay

Start early



- Be stress free- do **not** delay writing
- Break the essay down into smaller parts
- Use Draft Builder to reduce time and effort - remember each template has prompts to guide you!

Be yourself



- Write about the "true blue" you! Don't be phony; admission officers see "right through" phony!
 - Writing a "boring" essay will bore the college admissions officer!

Don't plagiarize



- Do not use others' work!
- College admissions officers have seen it all; you will not fool anyone!

Take a risk



- Admission officers are looking for students who are a "good fit!"
 - Do not be afraid to take some risk (... but not too risky...)

Notes:

Keep your focus



- Do not go off topic - do not ramble, over-brag or make self-righteous comments.
- Prior to writing the essay, outline or web your thoughts to help stay on task.

Write and rewrite



*"Haste Makes Waste" -
Your college essay needs
to be well written, write,
rewrite and get a second
opinion!*

Get a second opinion

- As a strong writer to read and comment on your essay
- Do not send your essay unless you have input from others!

Proofread



- Run a "spell check"
 - Carefully read the essay looking for minor typos
- Use a checklist to specifically go over each paragraph of the essay.
 - Use www.readplease.com to hear what your essay

Applying online is equal to sending an essay the "old fashioned way."



- Take the online essay submission seriously, it requires formal writing skills.
 - Do not writing similar to when texting or emailing a friend.

Don't expect too much from the essay



The essay is just a
“piece of the
application pie!”

- College admissions officers review all aspects/parts of your application.
 - Treat each part of the application equally important.
 - Check that all typed information is correct and up-to-date.

Notes: