



The College Application Essay

Information from “Khan Academy” and “Big Future”



Key Points

- Answer the Prompt
- Keep it Simple
- All about you
- Specific, detailed and vivid
- Write how you speak
- Have it proofread and corrected by no more than 2 people

Make it Personal

- Tell a story
- The essay is a way for the reader to understand why you do what you do
 - Reader needs to see what you are seeing
 - Reader needs to feel what you are feeling
 - Explain significance of event and what does it show about you
- Hone in on one experience - a lens through which they see how you and how your world operates
- Not more or a repeat of your resume - do not talk about what you do
- Less on academics but more on personal in essay. Want to get to know you not an academic essay.

Brainstorming

How to Find the story - 3 ways to Brainstorm

1. Find your Strengths - not your talent but your underlying qualities
 - a. Examples
 - i. Great in seeing things - make connections
 - ii. Solve complex issues
 - iii. Observant
 - b. **This free personality test**
(<http://www.humanmetrics.com/cgi-win/jtypes2.asp#questionnaire>) is based on Carl Jung's and Isabel Briggs Myers' personality type theory. Knowing your personality types can help in understanding your underlying strengths.

Brainstorming

- c. Use strengths to identify when showed up in life
 - i. Examples - Strong willed, Charismatic
- d. Find different experiences when this strength showed - let strengths show in telling the story but not by using the words but in the telling of the story. Let the reader draw the conclusions.

Brainstorming

2. Ask 6 to 8 people who know you well from different parts of your life:

What 3 Adjectives best describe me?

- Write exactly what tell you
- Map out findings
- Need to show development of where you are and want to become

3. Free write in a journal

- Socialize and share the story to see how others see it.

Tips

- Tone
 - Start fast - readers are reading a lot
 - Meat in middle that matters - focus on story
 - Match vocabulary to kind of person you are, make sure it sounds like you, conversational and relaxed language
 - Be specific, vivid and detailed
 - Nitty gritty details not surface level

Tips

- Depth & Substance
 - Read something that has changed in you
 - Doing things not enough need to give a story
 - Not just facts
 - Need a reveal moment on the change of thinking
 - Use the story to reveal. If have to explicitly say it have created distance with reader

Tips

- Ask yourself these questions
 - What does this mean to me
 - How has this experience changed me or not changed me
 - How do I act or feel, think or feel differently because of it
- What do I want admissions officer to learn about me and how applicable to me at the campus

Summary

- Choose topic that will showcase you
- Keep it simple
- Begin with a hook to encourage reader to find out more
- Focus on learning and development as a person
- Tell your story and how it impacted you
- Use your own words
- Do not state what you learned it should show in your story
- Have it proofread by no more than 2 people

Online Websites

<https://www.collegexpress.com/articles-and-advice/admission/articles/college-applications/writing-college-application-essay/>

<https://www.khanacademy.org/college-careers-more/college-admissions/applying-to-college/admissions-essays/v/writing-a-strong-college-admissions-essay> - videos

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-in/essays>

QUESTIONS???