



College Essay Tips

Believe you're worth knowing.

- If you think your life is interesting, so will others.
- Write about what you care about, not what you think they want to hear.

Don't pretend that you're someone that you're not.

- Don't try to "sound" intelligent
- Wouldn't you rather attend a school that will accept you as you are?

Show your personality.

- The reader should feel as though he/she knows you.
- Show your uniqueness – No two people are the same, but many essays are.

Don't be irreverent.

- Avoid profanity, crudeness, etc.
- Humor is great, but remember your audience. Humor can show that you're confident and at ease. Going overboard on humor shows that you don't take it seriously.

Show – Don't Tell.

- Be specific – Use anecdotes (personal incidents)
- Don't say you're reliable – prove it.

Demonstrate self-awareness.

- Colleges want people who can think about life and themselves. Show that you have. Examples – "If I had a dollar for every person I've offended with my sarcasm, I'd probably be able to retire now." ..."I've long lacked confidence. I think in my last twelve years of school I've volunteered to answer questions in class about four times."
- Self-awareness is good, but self-loathing is not. Colleges will not accept you out of pity.

Don't repeat the application.

- Show aspects of your personality, experiences, and /or aspirations that don't show up on your application.
- It's OK to allude to something on your application, but don't just list your accomplishments and qualities.

Brevity is crucial.

- Your audience reads thousands of essays. They're looking for substance.
- Don't waste words...don't be cute...don't be stylish...Get to the point!