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Writing A Successful College Application Essay

By Chris Davis

With the intense competition for entry into America's top schools, the college application essay is more important than ever. Although most students dread this assignment, it is the best way to distinguish yourself from other candidates, let the school get to know you, and add a personal touch to your application. Winning admission is about more than just GPA, class rank, and SAT scores. Universities are looking to build a student body with diverse talents, personality, and character. There is no better way to showcase these qualities than the college essay.

The first step in writing a winning essay to understand what admission boards are really looking for. Many students mistakenly believe that there is a correct answer to the essay question-that colleges are expecting the student to espouse a particular point of view. However, the exact opposite is usually true. It is not so much what you say, but how you say it that matters. Is the writing original? Is the thesis well developed and logically supported? Is the writing grammatically correct and stylistically pleasing? These are the questions the essay reader is likely to have foremost in his/her mind.

Every aspect of the essay will say something important about you. Show that you are an orderly and conscientious student by submitting a neatly typed (or a laser printer generated) document that exactly follows the essay requirements. Do not go over any limits placed on length or write on any topic that does not fit the assignment question or prompt. In general, it is best to keep your essay brief and to the point. Remember, it is not about how much you right, but how well you write. At all costs you must avoid appearing long-winded or superficial in your thesis. Readers can quickly spot an essay that was written simply to fulfill an admission requirement. Present a point of view that you truly believe in, and the sincerity and relevance of your thesis will come through.

Do not be afraid to inject some humor or personal information into your essay. Of course, be careful not to go overboard. You want the reader to know something of your personality, but a vulgar joke or admitting something that should be kept private can make the reader rather uncomfortable. Just be sure to keep everything in good taste, and that overall the essay demonstrates your seriousness as a student.

Instead of fearing the essay, consider it a great opportunity. This is your chance to show that your "A" in English was no fluke. Or even better, a well-crafted essay may help compensate for a disappointing score on the SAT verbal section. Most important, this is your best chance to distinguish yourself from the hundreds of other applications you are competing against for that exclusive spot in the college of your choice.

Chris Davis. Please visit

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Things You Don't Want In Your College Admission Essay

By Thomas Suh

These days, it seems that university admission committees think that acing your SATs, boosting your GPA, and having glowing recommendations are not good enough to guarantee admission to your dream school. After the entrance exams and submission of other requirements, they still require you to write a college admission essay. True, the essay is an added work, but it is your opportunity to market yourself to your dream university. Application essays allow you another opportunity to convince the school board to accept you. It also gives the board an overview of how you are as a student and individual. Therefore, the prospect of writing your college application essay must not be taken lightly – your essay can spell the difference between acceptance and rejection.

Even if a college admission essay is your chance to express yourself, it requires good and effective writing. Just typing something up does not qualify as an admission essay – this is your best bet if you want your essay to meet the document shredder. Good and effective writing means that you have to curb your enthusiasm for self-expression and be on guard about things that have the potential to ruin your essay. A study on admission essays submitted in recent years show several common mistakes. These mistakes range from content to grammatical mistakes – the very things you don't want in your essay.

Most universities provide guide questions for essay writing but you don't have to answer each one in detail unless they expressly ask you to do so. The questions were just provided to give you an idea what to write about. But candidates often write mile-long essays thinking that the longer the college application essay is, the more impressive. This is contrary to what admission officials are saying. Compositions that are unnecessarily lengthy are thought of as lacking in language mastery and clear thinking. Lengthy essays often lose focus and become circuitous while too short essays come up, well, short. Take out unnecessary words like too many adjectives, and instead, focus on using nouns and verbs. A good application essay should be concise but informative and interesting.

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Speaking of being informative and interesting, resumes, SAT scores, and GPAs are not crucial in a college admission essay. They are not interesting and they do not provide new information about you. The admission board has your resume and academic records — they don't need these in your essay. Brown-nosing and excessive praise for the university do not impress admission officials. They are great and they know it. They also know what they can do for their students, so you don't have to remind them. Take all these details out of your essay; nobody needs them. Come up and write about a topic that you feel passionate about to showcase your strengths as an individual. An essay about your stint as a volunteer is more interesting than grade enumeration.

Of course, good writing also means good grammar. College application essays with spelling errors give the impression of sloppiness. So do essay with errors in grammar and punctuation. Grammar books are effective solutions for these problems. Write a draft of your college application letter and reread it. Having other people – especially your English teacher – to read and point out errors is also a good idea. Revise and rewrite as often as needed and get as many comments as possible. Do this until your essay becomes concise and error-free.

The essay is about you, your talents, and how the school can benefit from accepting you. Writing an effective college application essay can be taxing but it can pave the way for your entrance into a

brighter future.

For more valuable information on MBA Essay and College Admission Essay, please visit

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