

COLLEGE APPLICATION ESSAY

Success Tips

WHAT ADMISSIONS LOOKS FOR ...

- ✓ A well-written, thoughtful personal statement that tells the reader more about you than can be expressed in other areas of your application.
- ✓ A proofed essay—no grammatical mistakes, typos or spelling errors.
- ✓ A logical argument or creative response when answering a specific question.

WRITER'S BLOCK?

HERE ARE SOME IDEAS...

Call for help! (818) 784-6680

- Write about what you know
- Try starting with an anecdote
- Pick a topic you care about
- Recall the stories you often like to tell about yourself

AS YOU WRITE YOUR DRAFT...

DO

- ✓ Start with a first sentence that really draws the reader in.
- ✓ Continue writing even when you feel blocked, then go back and edit. There may be something usable there.
- ✓ Keep asking yourself if you're answering the question at hand. If you aren't sure, start over.
- ✓ Stay true to your writing style. There's no need to use long words when a short one will do, if that's how you normally talk.

DON'T

- Embellish or fib about the story you're telling.
- Forget to break it up into paragraphs. Even though it's personal, it should still have an introduction, body and conclusion.
- Use a passive voice, make it more active.
- Stress about the final draft.
- Use too much or inappropriate humor .

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QUICK FIX:

NOT IN LOVE WITH YOUR OPENING STATEMENT?

Erase the first couple of sentences and start fresh.

The first sentence is your chance to capture the attention of the reader.

Visit www.TheEndResult.com to get more success tips

AFTER YOU'RE DONE WRITING...

- ☐ READ IT OUT LOUD, so you can distinctly hear parts that don't make sense or flow.
- ☐ ASK PEOPLE TO READ IT with specific goals in mind: a teacher to look at the content and grammar; a parent to find missing words and typos; and a friend to make sure your voice shines through.
- ☐ CHECK THE WORD COUNT If it's over the requirement, go back and edit. If the application suggests a minimum, keep it concise and close.
- ☐ USE SPELLCHECK and other reputable sources for words you aren't completely sure about.
- ☐ HEED ANY SUGGESTIONS YOU TRULY FIND USEFUL, but, stick with what you're comfortable with and believe in.

BEFORE YOU SUBMIT, MAKE SURE ...

- ✓ File attachments should include your name in the file's name and verify they are in the required format.
- ✓ If you copied and pasted from a Word doc into an online application, ensure that the spacing is correct.
- ✓ If you're mailing the application, ensure the pages are in the correct order

Submit

