

THE COLLEGE ADMISSIONS ESSAY

IMPORTANCE OF THE ESSAY:

HIGH!! Your **essay**, your grades, and your SAT/ACT scores are the three most important parts of your application.

PURPOSE OF THE ESSAY:

- to demonstrate your writing proficiency
- to reveal the thoughtfulness and maturity that will make you a **successful applicant and college student**

WRITING SUGGESTIONS FOR THE ESSAY:

- **Find your voice.** Do not try to sound more intelligent than you are. **AVOID** the thesaurus.
- **Be efficient and concise.** **OMIT** the unnecessary. Do not exceed the word limit.
- **Be clear and powerful.** Use strong and precise words. Avoid the **VAGUE** and clichéd.
- **Be honest and real.** Do **NOT** become sentimental and moralistic. Stay true to yourself and human experience.
- **Ask for others' opinions.** Friends, peers, teachers, guidance counselors, parents. Anyone can be a resource and provide feedback and a fresh perspective.
- **PROOFREAD !!!! PROOFREAD!!!!** Remember that you need the college more than they need you. **MISTAKES WILL COST YOU!**

FINDING YOUR TOPIC:

- **Tell a good story.** Present visually dramatic images to the reader.
- **The topic should be narrow and specific.** Generalizing and vagueness are boring, not dramatic.
- **Be an individual and take a risk.** Do not write about what everyone else is writing about. **STAND OUT FROM THE CROWD.**
- **The topic should truly interest you.** Use your passion.
- **Your essay should explore the topic assigned by the school,** include some observation about the school to which you are applying if it relates to the topic.
- **Use whatever is available to you.** Humor, poetry, narrative. Be unique but be careful **NOT TO OFFEND.** Get feedback from others to determine if you are appropriate.

In conclusion:

 **Write boldly and beautifully!**

 **Remember what your English teachers and others have tried to teach you!**

 **Be brave and make a great impression!**