

## Where to Find Sample College Admission Essays

**Q: WHO** should read sample college admission essays?

**A:** Anyone who is considering attending a two or four year college or university, anyone who is considering attending a technical or trade school, and anyone who is considering enlisting in the military.

**Q: WHAT** is the purpose of a college admission essay?

**A:** Colleges and Universities use the admissions essay to determine if you are a good match for their institution and/or the program to which you are applying. Your essay should demonstrate your personality and the best of your ability to write. Your accomplishments belong on your resume, not in your essay; make it memorable so it stands out.

**Q: WHEN** should I begin writing my college admission essay?

**A:** Yesterday. No, seriously. You haven't started yet? Expect to go through at least five drafts before you're finally satisfied with your essay. If you haven't started already, then you better get on it now. The early decision deadline for most schools is in November; regular admission deadlines range from November to January. Find out now when the application is due!

**Q: WHERE** can I find information and resources on writing the college essay?

**A:** Any English teacher you've ever had—in fact, any teacher you've ever had. We've all had to do this, so each of us has some tip or other to offer. Your guidance counselors are in close contact with the Colleges and Universities to which you are applying; they have an inside track and you should talk to them frequently as you move through the process. If you know to which schools you will be applying, schedule a phone appointment or a visit so you can talk directly with admissions officers about what they are looking for in candidates and their essays. **Finally, use the list of resources at the bottom of this page.**

**Q: WHY** should I bother looking at essays, I can't use them anyway? Besides, I hate essays.

**A:** Well, for starters, you'll get a good look at the competition and you'll have a more realistic view of what you're up against. Second, it will help you avoid mistakes like including a laundry list of your accomplishments in your essay. Finally, it should give you the confidence to go ahead and take the kinds of compositional risks that pay off in the end.

**Q: HOW** do I even begin to address the essay prompt?

**A:** Again, looking at the compositions of others will most certainly spark some ideas as to how to approach the topic. You will encounter a variety of creative responses that will help you plan not only WHAT you should say in your essay, but also HOW you should plan to say it. Remember, this is not a school essay, or an SAT essay; here, artistry counts for more than a few points toward your average. This essay can make or break you. Take it seriously, and use words as a doctor would a scalpel— always the right one for the job at hand.

### Resources:

- Google, "Sample College Admission Essay" or some variation; you'll get thousands of hits.
- <http://www.collegeconfidential.com/>
- <http://www.college-admission-essay.com/essays.html>
- <http://www.collegeboard.com/student/apply/essay-skills/>
- [http://www.teenink.com/college\\_guide/college\\_essays/](http://www.teenink.com/college_guide/college_essays/)
- [http://www.admissionsessays.com/free\\_essays/college.html](http://www.admissionsessays.com/free_essays/college.html)
- [http://www.quintcareers.com/college\\_application\\_essay.html](http://www.quintcareers.com/college_application_essay.html)
- <http://www.gradesaver.com/application-essays/>
- <http://www.conncoll.edu/admission/11189.htm>
- [http://www.englishclub.com/writing/college-application-essays/lth\\_structures.html](http://www.englishclub.com/writing/college-application-essays/lth_structures.html)
- [http://collegeapps.about.com/od/essays/College\\_Admissions\\_Essays\\_Samples\\_Critiques\\_and\\_Writing\\_Tips.htm](http://collegeapps.about.com/od/essays/College_Admissions_Essays_Samples_Critiques_and_Writing_Tips.htm)
- <http://www.accepted.com/college/sampleessays.aspx>