

## Olentangy Local School District Literature Selection Review

Teacher:	Jill C. Hartley	School:	OHS
Book Title:	On Writing the College Application Essay	Genre:	Nonfiction
Author:	Harry Bauld	Pages:	160
Publisher:	Collins Reference	Copyright:	1987

*In a brief rationale, please provide the following information relative to the book you would like added to the school's book collection for classroom use. You may attach additional pages as needed.*

**Book Summary and summary citation:** (suggested resources include book flap summaries, review summaries from publisher, book vendors, etc.)

Vital information for every college applicant. A former Ivy League admissions officer provides tough and funny advice on coming up with the best essay possible. (from the publisher)

**Provide an instructional rationale for the use of this title, including specific reference to the OLSD curriculum map(s):** (Curriculum maps may be referenced by grade/course and indicator number or curriculum maps with indicators highlighted may be attached to this form)

This book provides instructional information to help students achieve the following standard:

Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas, concepts, and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.

- a. Introduce a topic; organize complex ideas, concepts, and information so that each new element builds on that which precedes it to create a unified whole; include formatting (e.g., headings), graphics (e.g., figures, tables), and multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension.
- b. Develop the topic thoroughly by selecting the most significant and relevant facts, extended definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples appropriate to the audience's knowledge of the topic.
- c. Use appropriate and varied transitions and syntax to link the major sections of the text, create cohesion, and clarify the relationships among complex ideas and concepts.
- d. Use precise language, domain-specific vocabulary, and techniques such as metaphor, simile, and analogy to manage the complexity of the topic.
- e. Establish and maintain a formal style and objective tone while attending to the norms and conventions of the discipline in which they are writing.
- f. Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the information or explanation presented (e.g., articulating implications or the significance of the topic).

**Include two professional reviews of this title:** (a suggested list of resources for identifying professional reviews is shown below. Reviews may be "cut and pasted" (with citation) into the form or printed reviews may be attached to the form)

Review #1

This little college book is worth its weight in acceptance letters. It's as fresh and pertinent today as it was back in 1987 when it first came out. Not many college books go through as many printings as this one has, which is some indication of its legendary status among high schoolers. The secret to Bauld's success is that he takes some of his own writing medicine with the text of *On Writing*. There is humor, pathos, instruction, brevity, revelation, and intelligence here. It can be a one-night read, but you'll want to savor it over and over as you build those critical writing samples that will populate your college applications.

Bauld's humor shines through in his mini-play about two young admission staffers struggling with a mountain of mediocre applications and the inevitable sub-par essays. With each sarcastic comment, we get precious insights into how college gatekeepers think (Bauld is a former Ivy League admissions officer). Thus, through poking fun at these fictional essays, Bauld warns us of the perilous pitfalls. His treatise on topics to avoid will be shocking to many who have already planned their essay topics. Are you guilty of writing about "The Trip," "My Favorite Things," or "Tales of My Success"? There are other bad topics too. You can also learn why this lead: "I do some of my best thinking in the bathroom" got its author into a top college. There are examples galore with critical commentaries by some of Bauld's admission officer buddies. It's a gold mine for essay writers and a true classic in the genre.

(Dave Berry, collegeconfidential.com)

### Review #2

Writing the college application essay can be frightening, exciting, and laborious (much like writing a book review). The desired result is to make the essay stand out from 1000 others to make the college admissions officer blink his or her heavy eyelids. Bauld gives entertaining and thought-provoking methods of accomplishing the task. His use of examples and corresponding responses from admissions officers is excellent. Despite the title, this book has value for anyone preparing to write. (Library Journal, Annette R. Huggins, Memphis State Univ. Libs.)

### **What alternate text(s) could also fulfill the instructional requirements?**

Title: **The College Application Essay**

Author: **Sarah McGinty**

Title: **Acing the College Application**

Author: **Michele Hernandez**

Title: **100 Successful College Application Essays**

Author: **Harvard Independent**

Title:

Author:

Title:

Author:

Title:

Author:

### **Document any potentially controversial content:**

**Keeping in mind the age, academic level, and maturity of the intended reader, what is the suggested classroom use: (check all that apply)**

Gifted/Accelerated  Regular  At Risk

**GRADE LEVEL(S):** 6  7  8  9  10  11  12

**Reading level of this title (if applicable):**

**Date Submitted to Department Chair:**

**Suggested Professional Literary Review Sources:**

School Library Journal

Horn Book

Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books

VOYA (Voice of Youth Advocates)

Library Journal

Book Links

Publisher's Weekly

Booklist

Kirkus Review

Wilson Library Catalog

English Journal (and other resources of the National Council of Teachers of English)

The Reading Teacher (International Reading Association)

Literature for Today's Young Adults