Having Another Look: Revision:
The College Application Essay

Accuracy: Have you answered the question?

Purpose: What are you trying to say? Consider your audience.

Focus: Have you limited the subject to cover it well in a short essay?

Main idea: What is the message, thesis? What do you want to leave in your reader's mind?

Unity: Do you stick to the point from beginning to end? Do you keep reminding the reader of the point?

Organization: Does your intro. hook the reader? Can you explain the order of ideas in the body of the essay? What does your ending add to the essay?

Development: Is there a main point in each paragraph? What does each paragraph contribute to the whole? Have you said enough?

Voice: conveys your personality behind the words. Don't sound like a slick politician or a TV commercial. You can be funny or serious, but you must be honest.

Clarity: Avoid being verbose. Say "use" instead of "usage." Go through every sentence and cross out words that are not necessary. Use present tense over past tense to add energy to your words. Avoid vague, hard-to-define words when a simpler word will work! Your sentences, like muscles, should be firm and tight! Look for repetition and cut!

Variety of sentences: Mix up you sentences to include, simple, compound sentences etc. Remember a sentence can be molded into almost any shape that is beautiful or ugly!

Final Tips:

Read your essay once for overall meaning and once for mechanics. Get rid of any dirty and sloppy editing errors that could ruin a well-constructed and well-thought out essay. Read your essay out loud to really hear it. Have anyone you can read it as well. Know that you can't write a good essay in one night, so spend quality time thinking, brainstorming, writing, revising, and finally polishing a final product.

Works Cited: Ehrenhaft, George. *Writing a Successful College Application Essay.* Barron's Educational Series, Inc. New York: 1987.