



HOLDERNESS

10 QUESTIONS TO HELP YOU WRITE YOUR COLLEGE ESSAY

- What is the sentence in the admissions officer's head after reading the essay? What notes are they writing about your statement?
- Does this essay show your choices? What agency did you have? What did you do of your own free will?
- If this is about a struggle, did you show you moved through it? (you don't have to have it all figured out), but it shouldn't just be about a challenge.
- Does the essay show what skills, experiences, habits, hobbies, and interests you are going to bring to your next community? If your friends were to read it, could they tell it was you?
- What are the takeaways from the first paragraph and last paragraph?
- What is your favorite line in the essay—is it featured in a topic sentence or is it hidden?
- Is this about another person? If so, how could you ensure that it is centered around how that person impacted you?
- Are there too many stories? Do the stories connect around central themes?
- Is your voice still in this essay? Or have edits made it less your voice? Does it sound like a 17-19 year old wrote it?
- Is this a current story/story relevant to who you are right now? There are no bad topics, the topic is you.

Learn more about College Counseling at Holderness School at
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