

Top 10 Tips to Writing Essays

Choosing a topic:

- 1) Start early – nothing's more miserable than trying to cram your personality into 500 words the night before the application is due. Allow yourself a lot of time to choose an idea and to develop it.
- 2) Write about what you know – not only will this make writing your essay much easier, but this will best illustrate your unique personality
- 3) When brainstorming for ideas, don't worry too much if you think up of ideas that might not obviously score you points with the admissions board. As long as you write your topic well, then you will definitely make an impression.
- 4) Be creative in choosing your topic and the way you go about developing your topic. Chances are, they've read just about everything, so originality is always a plus!

Writing the essay:

- 5) In writing, the beginning and the end are the most important parts -- the opening line should be attention-grabbing, and the last line should leave the reader inspired. These parts of your essay will be the ones readers will remember you by, so take extra care in writing them.
- 6) Be honest – but prudently so. Essay readers can pretty much tell if you're lying, so there's not much point in fibbing or fudging. At the same time, don't give out unnecessary information that may present you in a negative light (unless you're going somewhere with it).
- 7) The best essays are those that reflect your personality.
- 8) Try to be concise with your essays – if your essay shows clear organization, this will also earn you points. Including too many extra details may leave the essay reader uninspired and bored.
- 9) Proofread – multiple times. Nothing's more embarrassing than the admissions board coming away with the idea that your spelling needs work. Having others (parents, friends, teachers, etc.) proofread your essays always helps!

But most importantly,

- 10) Enjoy doing this! This is pretty much the only part of the application that allows you to get remotely creative.