

Remember to
mute your
microphone
& keep your
camera off!



COLLEGE APPLICATION ESSAY WRITING

HERITAGE HIGH SCHOOL

STUDENT SERVICES

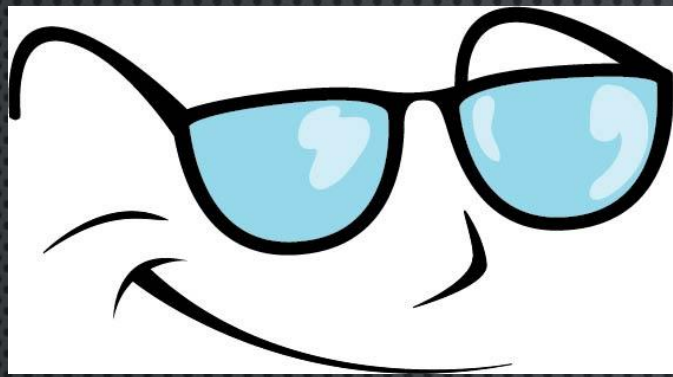
OCTOBER 2020

WHY IS THE ESSAY IMPORTANT?

- BRINGS YOU TO LIFE
- MAKES A PERSONAL IMPRESSION
- ILLUSTRATES YOUR UNIQUE SELF
- TELLS YOUR STORY BEYOND “THE NUMBERS” (UP TO 25-30% OF YOUR APPLICANT PROFILE DUE TO COVID)

WHY IS THE ESSAY IMPORTANT?





WHAT ARE THEY LOOKING FOR?

- SNAPSHOT OF HOW YOU THINK
- HONEST, TRUE-TO-SELF, UNCONTRIVED STORY

WHAT ARE THEY LOOKING FOR?



TIPS FOR STARTING ESSAY



- READ THE PROMPT/QUESTION
- BRAINSTORM AND START PUTTING WORDS ON THE PAGE
 - FOCUS IN ON A TOPIC AND DIG DEEP
 - DRAFT IN A CONVERSATIONAL TONE

HOW TO WRITE YOUR ESSAY?

- ADDRESS THE TOPIC, ANSWER THE QUESTION.
- CREATE SENSE OF IMMEDIACY (THE HOOK!)
- BE HONEST
- BE SPECIFIC
- READ IT ALOUD
- LET SOMEONE ELSE CRITIQUE IT, SOMEONE THAT KNOWS YOU
- REVISE, BUT DON'T LOSE YOUR PERSONAL STYLE
- PROOFREAD. IT SHOULD BE FREE OF TYPOS AND ERRORS. REMEMBER THAT SOME COMMON ERRORS MAY NOT BE PICKED UP BY SPELLCHECK.

HOW TO WRITE YOUR ESSAY?



ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS...

- LENGTH (650 WORDS IS NOT A LOT!)
- HOW TO ADDRESS DIFFERENT ESSAY QUESTIONS
 - “WHY US” QUESTION
 - “TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF”
 - CREATIVE QUESTIONS
 - DIFFICULT SITUATIONS-EXPLAINING CIRCUMSTANCES

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS...

- The Common Application essay is most similar to a **narrative or memoir** (a short, personal story). Many students have little to no experience writing essays in this form, and that's completely okay!
- ***This is not a 5 paragraph essay.*** You will not have an introduction or conclusion in the traditional sense.
- ***This is not a thought piece.*** The entire essay shouldn't be speculation. Include specific moments in your life to help the reader get to know you better.

- **Before you write:**
 - What are the goals of this essay?
 - What do I want to share?
 - What themes will I be focusing on?
- **First story or moment:** a challenge or time when you learned something about yourself, someone else, or the world.
- **Transition:** how are these two stories related?
- **Second story or moment:** a time when you displayed this new quality or applied your learned wisdom or knowledge.
- **Wrap up:** how does that experience affect who you are today or who you will be in the future?

DO NOT!



- PROCRASTINATE
- REPEAT YOURSELF
- SUBMIT ACADEMIC ESSAY, UNLESS REQUESTED
- BE OVERLY FORMAL, OVERLY USE A THESAURUS
- BEGIN POETRY CAREER NOW
- BE GIMMICKY
- USE THE NAME OF THE COLLEGE YOU ARE APPLYING TO IN A LONG ESSAY.

Resources

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-in/essays/tips-for-writing-an-effective-application-essay-college-admissions>

<https://blog.collegevine.com/category/essays/college-essay-tips/>

<https://www.commonapp.org/apply/first-time-students>



QUESTIONS? COMMENTS? NEED MORE HELP?

- SENIOR SATURDAY
 - OCTOBER 10TH 9AM-12PM
- FOLLOW UP MEETING WITH YOUR COUNSELOR
- COLLEGE APPLICATION WEEKS
 - OCTOBER 19-30TH