

Components of a College Essay

Structured reflection is important. The college application process is a rare opportunity in life. Applicants shouldn't just go through it with the goal of getting into a school but with the mindset that they want to learn more about themselves, learn more about their values, crystallize their aspirations, and identify the experiences that they need to make an impact on the world.

Your college essay is not a static piece of writing. It is a picture of who you are as you are in the past, present, and in the future. The essay is a representation of the "you" that is below the surface, that is more than your clothes, more than a list of activities. The essay should be dynamic, meaningful, and personal only you could write it. If the essay prompt is asking about your family's impact on you, it is asking about the impact on you, not extensive information about your family. The essay is all about YOU

College Essay: What Should I Write? What Do They Want Me To Write About?

- z Don't describe your science project in detail describe your curiosity.

- z Don't write what you think others want to hear. Answer the question honestly.

- z Don't talk about Aunt Sally's death. Talk about how Aunt Sally's death affected you.

- z If it's the first time you've thought about it, don't write your college essay about it.

- z Write about something personal that you can be passionate about.

- z Don't spend time/words on a travelogue- where you went and how you got there. If you visited a site where bombings occurred for example, this could be a great chance to talk about how the violence in the world was now in your face and how you felt about it. Spend more time on connecting your experiences to your values.

- z Avoid careless errors such as

- z mentioned above and other careless errors such

- z as spelling and grammatical errors, writing in

- z different colored pens on the same application,

- z having your parent or someone else fill out part

- z and you fill out another (different handwriting).

- z No sloppy applications!

- o Keep in mind your audience- 18- 65 years olds

- z with diverse backgrounds

- o Read your essay out loud.
- o Have two people review your essays but not more than that. Edit but don't overedit.
- o When having someone read your essay, create

Essays That Worked This information is from Connecticut College and their web site <http://www.conncoll.edu/admission/essays.htm>. You can get a good idea of what colleges are looking for, as these students were admitted.

Submit your essay to your counselor:

On the Senior Page on the Stanton website, there is an option for students to submit their essays to their counselors to have them as if a college admissions officers might do. Please feel free to use this at anytime.