

COLLEGE ESSAY OUTLINE

Goal: Start your college essay and show your true self when you apply

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Start by watching this video. That's right, before you start writing, you can ease into this process by watching a video that will help guide you.

Writing a strong admissions essay

College Essay Tips + Writing your best college essay



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CHOOSE YOUR ESSAY PROMPT (JUST ONE):

- ☐ Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.
- ☐ The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
- ☐ Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?
- ☐ Reflect on something that someone has done for you that has made you happy or thankful in a surprising way. How has this gratitude affected or motivated you?
- ☐ Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.
- ☐ Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?
- ☐ Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design.



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OUTLINE: BEGIN THE OUTLINE FOR YOUR ANCHOR STORY BELOW

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POSITIVE CHARACTERISTICS: WHAT DOES THIS STORY SAY ABOUT YOU?

Look through the adjectives below and highlight at least 5 words that describe you in the outline of your anchor story you wrote above. Feel free to add other adjectives if they aren't on the list.

Achiever	Creative	Focused	Intuitive	Philosophical	Sensitive
Adaptable	Curious	Friendly	Innovative	Positive	Sincere
Adventurous	Decisive	Futuristic	Joyful	Practical	Straight-forward
Ambitious	Deliberate	Generous	Learner	Proactive	Strategic
Analytical	Dependable	Gentle	Loyal	Rational	Supportive
Artistic	Determined	Giving	Non-judgmental	Relaxed	Sympathetic
Brave	Diligent	Grounded	Observant	Reliable	Thorough
Calm	Diplomatic	Hardworking	Optimistic	Resilient	Thoughtful
Communicative	Dynamic	Helpful	Open-minded	Responsible	Trustworthy
Compassionate	Efficient	Honest	Organized	Resourceful	Unique
Competitive	Empathetic	Imaginative	Passionate	Restorative	Versatile
Connected	Energetic	Inclusive	Patient	Self-Confident	Warmhearted
Consistent	Enthusiastic	Independent	Persistent	Self-Disciplined	Witty

Do you want to go back and add or change any details in your outline to highlight more strengths?



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