



College Essay Tips:

6 Strategies to Write AMAZING Essays

- 1.) Don't fret about trying **overly** hard to impress. Your stories are personal. The colleges want to know WHO you are as a person. Even a small event in your life can have meaning. If you don't have a big life event to share at the age of 17... it's okay. Try to discuss experiences that are meaningful to you.
- 2.) Draw the reader in. Remember, admissions officers read a lot of these every day. Stand out by being dynamic. Use sensory details to **show** your reader your story, rather than tell.
- 3.) **Self-reflect**. The stories mean nothing unless you explain how you grew, what you learned, what changed in you, or what you did differently. Relate your experiences to who you are as a person.
- 4.) Be careful of using "I" too much. It can be repetitive and can make the reader lose interest.
- 5.) It is not recommended to discuss religion, politics, or war. You don't know who is reading your essays.
- 6.) Be cautious about discussing negative events in your life. Unless they have a positive outcome or are written extremely well, they can serve as red flags for admissions officers and can detract from the positive things in your application. They don't want to read an essay about a student disliking his/ her dad for divorcing his/ her mom, for example.