

## Three Steps to a Great College Essay You, in 500 Words or Less

The college application essay is a chance to explain yourself, to open your personality, charm, talents, vision, and spirit to the admissions committee. It's a chance to show you can think about things and that you can write clearly about your thoughts. Don't let the chance disappear. Stand up straight and believe in yourself!

### The Essay Writing Process

Okay, boot up your computer and let's get to it. To write a college essay, use the exact same three-step process you'd use to write an essay for class: first prewrite, then draft, and finally, edit. This process will help you identify a focus for your essay, and gather the details you'll need to support it.

#### Prewriting

To begin, you must first collect and organize potential ideas for your essay's focus. Since all essay questions are attempts to learn about you, begin with yourself.

- **Brainstorm:** Set a timer for 15 minutes and make a list of your strengths and outstanding characteristics. Focus on strengths of personality, not things you've done. For example, you are responsible (not an "Eagle Scout") or committed (not "played basketball"). If you keep drifting toward events rather than characteristics, make a second list of the things you've done, places you've been, accomplishments you're proud of; use them for the activities section of your application.
- **Discover Your Strengths:** Do a little research about yourself: ask parents, friends, and teachers what your strengths are.
- **Create a Self-Outline:** Now, next to each trait, list five or six pieces of evidence from your life—things you've been or done—that prove your point.
- **Find Patterns and Connections:** Look for patterns in the material you've brainstormed. Group similar ideas and events together. For example, does your passion for numbers show up in your performance in the state math competition and your summer job at the computer store? Was basketball about sports or about friendships? When else have you stuck with the hard work to be with people who matter to you?

#### Drafting

Now it's time to get down to the actual writing. Write your essay in three basic parts: introduction, body, and conclusion.

- The introduction gives your reader an idea of your essay's content. It can shrink when you need to be concise. One vivid sentence might do: "The favorite science project was a complete failure."
- The body presents the evidence that supports your main idea. Use narration and incident to show rather than tell.
- The conclusion can be brief as well, a few sentences to nail down the meaning of the events and incidents you've described.

An application essay doesn't need to read like an essay about *The Blue Eye* or the Congress of Vienna, but thinking in terms of these three traditional parts is a good way to organize your main points.

# 500 Word College Essay Example

**Glenn H. Leggett, Carl David Mead**



## 500 Word College Essay Example:

*Counseling 21st Century Students for Optimal College and Career Readiness* Corine Fitzpatrick, Kathleen Costantini, 2012-03-27 In order for students to compete in today's global economy our schools need to help them develop better cognitive and technological skills School counselors have an enormous impact on students achievement and their success in their post secondary education yet initiatives to improve student outcomes often overlook them Fitzpatrick and Costantini present their own action based curriculum for high school counselors that will meet the needs of 21st century students helping to foster their growth and ambition and actively engage them in learning what they need to succeed beyond high school Important steps covered in this curriculum include Making the transition to ninth grade successful Using technology in the advising process such as online resources for college and career research assessing interests and structuring advising sessions Preparing for standardized testing and using it to motivate students about the college application process Assisting students in researching careers and colleges making the most of college visits applying for college and writing the application essay Equally important the book focuses on the counselor and his or her role as an advocate and leader for students and details running a guidance office working with parents and writing Secondary School Reports While applicable for all school counselors and students the authors curriculum has a special focus on students in urban public schools to enable them to have the same experiences as their counterparts in suburban and private schools Accompanying downloadable resources contain the tables exercises and charts from the book so they can be easily accessed and reproduced *College Access and Opportunity Guide 2011* , **How to Get Into an Ivy League School** Charles River Editors, 2011-10-25 **Fiske Real College Essays that Work** Edward B. Fiske, Bruce Hammond, 2006 Over 100 real sample essays plus advice from the leading experts on getting into college [Academic Success Formula](#) Tutor Doctor, 2017-06-27 If your child is struggling in school and you can't find a solution this may be the book for you Tutor Doctor's unique approach to learning takes a step back from the books and explores how your child is approaching their studies Do they have a clear set of goals to motivate them Are they finding the process fulfilling Can they organize their time and are they eating well Do they feel comfortable in a learning environment or is the classroom a place that makes them anxious Knowledge is important but without the right framework in place even the brightest child will fail That's why the first step to addressing problems at school isn't more schooling it's helping students become happy confident and motivated to learn Over the past thirteen years Tutor Doctor teams have worked with more than 200 000 students to build winning learning strategies In this book their leading experts explain how you too can guide your child to success **Conquering the College Admissions Essay in 10 Steps** Alan Gelb, 2010-11-03 Writing a memorable personal statement can seem like an overwhelming project for a young college applicant but college essay coach Alan Gelb's holistic strategy and reassuring voice takes out the intimidation factor Students will identify an engaging topic and use creative writing techniques to compose a

vivid statement that will reflect their individuality A much needed supplement to other college entrance guides this useful handbook will help students win over the admissions dean while preparing them to write better papers once they've been accepted A guide to crafting a meaningful and polished college admissions essay that expresses the applicant's unique personality strengths and goals Step by step instructions lead students from idea to initial draft through revisions and to a final version ready for submission According to the U S Department of Education 69 percent of high school graduates enroll in college ReviewsPublisher's Weekly March 24th 2008 Included in test prep college feature article From the Trade Paperback edition     **Writing a Successful College Application Essay** George Ehrenhaft,2000-08-01 Revised and brought up to date with new essays from over 50 popular colleges this book guides college applicants step by step through the essay writing process The author advises on how to choose a topic make a rough draft then polish and edit the writing into an essay that conveys the student's personality interests and thinking Sample essays with critiques include both winning essays and losers     **Ferguson Career Resource Guide to Grants, Scholarships, and Other Financial Resources, 2-Volume Set** Ferguson,2014-05-14 A two volume comprehensive guide with information on obtaining scholastic grants scholarships and other financial resources to be used for educational expenses     **Glencoe Writer's Choice** ,2005

Goof-Proof College Admissions Essays Lauren B. Starkey,2003 With more qualified students than ever competition for top notch colleges is at an all time high In addition to impeccable grades and high test scores students need to write an intelligent concise essay to gain admission It's vital to get the tools and strategies necessary for crafting a winning essay Learn the goof proof way to write specific types of essays along with rules tips and do's and don'ts     **The College Board Scholarship Handbook 2008** College Entrance Examination Board,2007 Offers a listing of scholarship internship and loan programs based on such categories as minority status field of study and religious affiliation     *Writing from the Ground Up* Leesther Thomas,2002-06     **Scholarships** Gail Schlachter,Kaplan,R. David Weber,Service Press Reference,2005 Presents a guide to college scholarships with over 3 000 listings for funding opportunities in the sciences social sciences and humanities including eligibility information advice on application procedure and tips for avoiding scams     **Writer's Choice** GLENCOE,Jacqueline Jones Royster,1996 An elementary level language arts textbook which develops good writing skills through exercises in reading writing and grammar     **Scholarships, Fellowships, and Loans** Cengage Gale,Thomson Gale (Firm),2006-11 Provides more than 4 200 sources of education related financial aid and awards at all levels of study Includes a section on federal financial aid that features a quick summary of programs sponsored by the federal government Also includes a state by state listing of agencies that users can contact in their home state     **Directory of Financial AIDs for Women, 2005-2007** Gail Ann Schlachter,R. David Weber,2005-05 If you are looking for financial aid for women or know women who are then this is the directory for you Here in one place are descriptions of nearly 1 500 scholarships fellowships loans forgivable loans grants awards and internships available specifically for women This funding is open to women at any

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