

APPLICATION ESSAY

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Not automatically admitted?

The college essay is a key factor that can supplement your application profile in the holistic review process. This is an opportunity discuss personal or academic history which can give insight to who you are and a discrepancy in your grades.

Show your personality

What makes you unique? Are you a good fit for a particular college or scholarship? How have you changed in the past four years? This is your opportunity to give the reader insight to the type of person you are.

Affirm your desire to participate in a specific program

For some essays, you may need to focus on elaborating and specifying why you are interested in a college or program.

Demonstrate your ability to write

Think G&G: Grammar and Genuine Writing. It is important to submit an original and well written essay. After all, this essay is a mini-interview on paper and you want to make sure you get the job.

CREATE YOUR THEME

Brain-dump! Transfer all knowledge about a specific or multiple personal situations to a piece a paper or your hard drive. Scan over them and organize your thoughts. As you organize, look for a recurring theme amongst what you wrote down. Develop concrete examples of the themes.

Theme:	Importance of discipline and time management
Good	Better
I <u>try</u> to make sure I do my homework and get to my job on time.	Having a part-time job and going to school has taught me the importance of time management. Before I had a job, I would do homework whenever I had time. Now, I sit down every week and create a schedule which includes my study time, school time and work time. I do this every week so I can also have free time to spend with my family and friends because this is important to me too. I think these skills are important because I will need them in college if I want to be successful.

ENGAGE YOUR AUDIENCE

Need some help getting the reader's attention? Here are some ways to develop your essay:

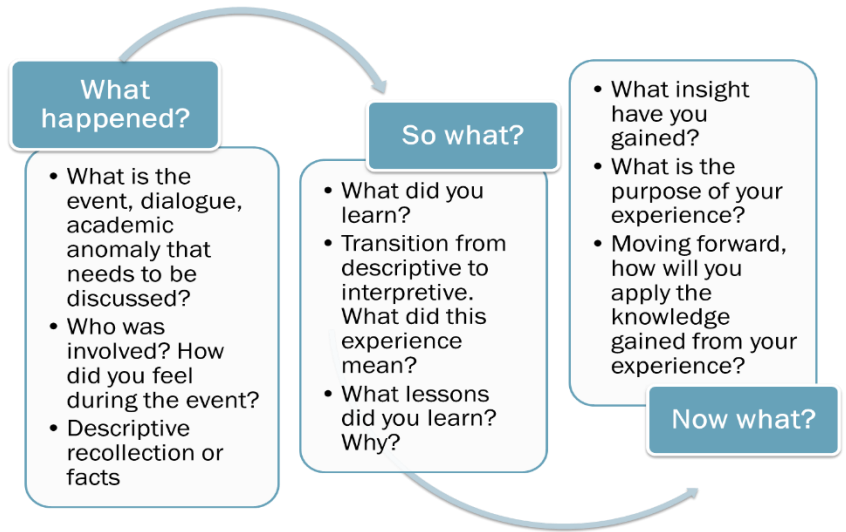
1. Discuss an action you took for an event
2. Describe an event which shows your natural character
3. Your reaction to an event
4. Dialogue that triggered change in you or surroundings

ESSAY DEVELOPMENT

- Focus plenty of time on developing your introduction
- Do not give away the entire story in the beginning
- P3: Put **PURPOSE** in your Paragraphs. Ensure that you are developing concrete examples and transition accordingly as you develop your essay
- End with a **BANG!** What is your key takeaway from this experience? How will YOU use the knowledge from this event moving forward? What is the tangible knowledge?

WRITE AND REVISE

The guideline presented here is a great start to developing and organizing your essay. As you are following the guide, reference your prompt to make sure you are answering your question accordingly.



THINGS TO AVOID

- Don't use 50 words when 5 will do
- Don't tell the ENTIRE story of your life
- Steer clear of generalizing an entire group
- Don't write what you think the reader wants to hear
- Grammar and content errors. **Proofread your essay.** Are you sending the correct essay to the correct college?

KEY REMINDERS

- **Remember, the essay is about YOU.** Try not to develop your entire essay discussing another individual. Find a way to bring the topic back to you and what you have learned.
- Engage early. Focus on your introduction after you have developed your theme.
- Elaborate and give specific examples to reiterate importance. Do not be vague about what you have or are doing.
- "I'm a big kid now!" This essay is your opportunity to write about tangible knowledge you've gained. Reinforce the importance of this new, gained knowledge.

YOUR TURN

What happened?	So what?	Now what?

College Application Essay Topics

Apply Texas Essay Topics

Essay A: What was the environment in which you were raised? Describe your family, home, neighborhood, or community, and explain how it has shaped you as a person.

Essay B: Some students have an identity, an interest, or a talent that defines them in an essential way. If you are one of these students, then tell us about yourself.

Essay C: You've got a ticket in your hand – Where will you go? What will you do? What will happen when you get there?

Common Application Topics

1. 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.
2. 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?
3. Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?
4. Describe a problem you've solved or a problem you'd like to solve. It can be an intellectual challenge, a research query, an ethical dilemma - anything that is of personal importance, no matter the scale. Explain its significance to you and what steps you took or could be taken to identify a solution.
5. Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.
6. Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?
7. 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.

Coalition Application Topics

1. Tell a story from your life, describing an experience that either demonstrates your character or helped to shape it.
2. Describe a time when you made a meaningful contribution to others in which the greater good was your focus. Discuss the challenges and rewards of making your contribution.
3. Has there been a time when you've had a long-cherished or accepted belief challenged? How did you respond? How did the challenge affect your beliefs?
4. What is the hardest part of being a teenager now? What's the best part? What advice would you give a younger sibling or friend (assuming they would listen to you)?
5. Submit an Essay on a topic of your choice.

ApplyTexas Essays

Guidelines: You have two options for submitting your essays:

1. **Submit your essay online (preferred).**
 - Use a plain-text to write and **SAVE** your essay(s). It must be no longer than 120 eighty-character lines of text (including spaces and blank lines = 1 – 1.5 pages).
 - **At the time you submit your admissions application**, you will have the choice to **SUBMIT** all saved essays with your application, or to submit each essay individually later.
 - **If more than one institution to which you apply requires the same essay, you will need to submit each applicable essay with each application in order for it to be sent to multiple institutions.**
2. **Type your essay(s) and mail to the college's office of admission:**
 - If you are mailing in a paper copy of your essay(s), please put your full name, date of birth and the ApplyTexas application ID at the top of each page. Unless otherwise specified, your essay should be typed and no longer than one page (8 1/2" x 11").

Common Application Essays

Guidelines: You have one option

1. **Submit your essay online**
 - You have between a 250 – 650 word limit
 - If you are pasting your essay into the Common App, paste it first into Note Pad or Text Edit, and then paste it into the Common App to avoid formatting irregularities.
 - Click “open full screen” to expand the text box
 - Use the additional information section: Use this space to share any extra information you feel colleges should know about you.
 - If you need help while completing the application please visit: appsupport.commonapp.org
 - Disciplinary History –If you are or have been suspended, it must be reported.

Coalition Application

Guidelines:

- ❖ **Some schools won't require an essay at all;** other schools will require one of the general essays **and** answers to additional school-specific essay or short answer questions. Please consult the application requirements for each Coalition school in which you are interested.
- ❖ It is strongly recommended to stay within the **limit of 300 to 500 words** in length. For more information on specific application requirements, please consult the website for each institution to which you are applying, as requirements often vary.

*Remember: The essays demonstrate your ability to write clearly and concisely on a selected topic and helps you distinguish yourself in your own voice. What do you want the readers to know about you? *Disciplinary History – If you are or have been suspended...it must be reported.