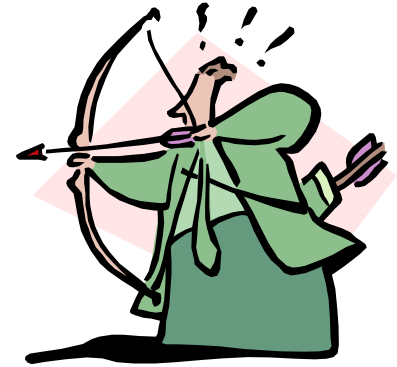


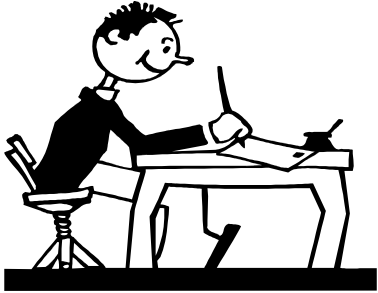
THE COLLEGE ESSAY



PURPOSE and GOAL



- The essay enables the college admission office to evaluate your communication skills.
- The essay enables the college admission office to learn more about you as a person, beyond what grades and test scores can convey.
- The goal of the essay is to make the reader want to admit you by believing you would be an asset to their university.



Types of Essays

- Personal Statement
 - Example: Indicate a person who has had a significant influence on you, and describe that influence.
 - Common Application
- Specific Question
 - Example: Write an essay somehow inspired by super-huge mustard.
 - University of Chicago

General Advice: Do's

- ☐ Do answer the question being asked
- ☐ Do find an angle, use a theme
- ☐ Do some research, if necessary
- ☐ Do write well and correctly
- ☐ Do avoid clichés
- ☐ Do tell a story
- ☐ Do use specifics



General Advice: Don'ts

- Don't repeat information listed elsewhere
- Don't pick a controversial subject
- Don't bore the reader
- Don't procrastinate

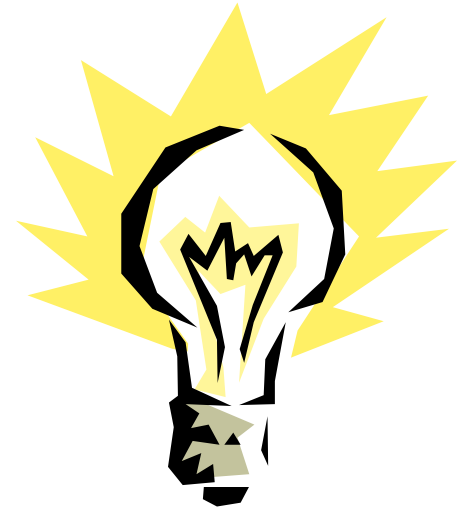


A Good Essay...

- ☐ Is thoughtful and honest
- ☐ Strives for depth, not breadth
- ☐ Follows the conventions of good writing
- ☐ Conforms to guidelines
- ☐ Answers the question
- ☐ Benefits from several drafts and feedback from others
- ☐ Contains a catchy introduction
- ☐ Transforms blemishes into positives
- ☐ Demonstrates knowledge
- ☐ Exudes confidence

BRAINSTORM

- GOALS
- ROLE MODELS AND INFLUENCE
- ACHIEVEMENTS
- HOBBIES AND INTERESTS
- CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES
- YOUR FAVORITE TOPIC
- CURRENT AFFAIRS
- INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCES



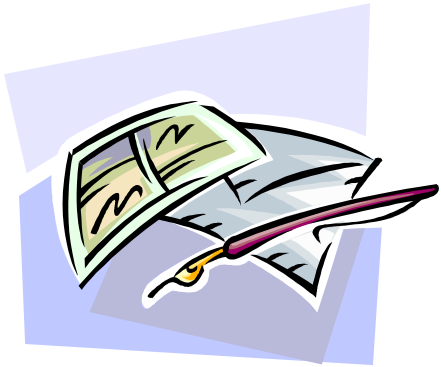
WRITING THE ESSAY

- Structure and outline
- Style and tone
- Editing and revising



STRUCTURE AND OUTLINE

- ❑ Express a single thought and make it flow logically together by using strong transitions.
- ❑ Your introduction must grab their interest from the beginning and your conclusion must make a lasting impression.
- ❑ Use concrete examples.



Style and Tone

- Use a conversational, but not too casual, style and easy-to-understand language to project a genuine, relaxed image.
- Make sure that your essay is readable. Don't make the reader work.
- Don't bore the reader with your style. More often it is the monotonous style, and not the subject matter, that makes these essays dull.

Style and Tone

- Don't use words that are unfamiliar to you.
- Control your tone: Be confident, but not boastful; self-assured, but not aggressive; and accomplished, but not a Superhero.
- Avoid being silly, cute or outrageous
- Avoid a laundry list of accomplishments.

Editing and Revising

- Take a break before you revise
- Examine the overall structure & substance
- Don't start every sentence with "I"
- Proofread
- Read your essay aloud
- Type carefully
- Ask somebody to proofread it!

