

# Stuck on Your College Essay? Unlock Your Best Stories with These Expert Tips

Writing your college essays is a scary task. They feel so important and easy to mess up. Although they are important, they are hard to mess up. Here are a few tips to write an essay that makes sure you are putting your best foot forward.

## **Start now**

Procrastinating is not the best option when it comes to writing an essay. You need to rest in order to think creatively since rushing the process will not result in good ideas. Also, do not feel scared of a blank space. Start even if you do not have complete sentences because they will come up eventually. We recommend starting to write your personal statement in August.

## **Invest in self-knowledge**

Although we do not require you to tell a story that you do not want to, writing essays is all about finding the best story. Indeed, personal essays involve looking back on past experiences. A good way to access those memories is to think about qualities that shine the most in your personality. Then, try to remember situations where this quality played an important role in your decision making process and action. After brainstorming the qualities and situations, choose the story that resonates with you the most.

## **You are more than accomplishments!**

Cheesy, I know. But your college essay is the place to be all about you. From picking a topic that's important to you, to writing in the same tone you speak in, to showing off your personality. All your accomplishments will be shown in your transcripts and extracurricular activities list. This is where you show the schools you are applying a deeper look into who you are. It is impossible to show every side of you in 650 words so focus on something about you that you're really proud of: your leadership skills, your creativity, why you're passionate about a niche subject are all good examples.

## **Revise and edit, revise and edit, revise and edit**

Making sure all your "i's" are dotted and "t's" are crossed helps make you seem more prepared. After spending so much time with your essay, you may miss those tiny mistakes so have a couple of people look over it. Your college counselor, your English teacher, friends and family members are all excellent options. However, remember you own control over your essays, so only take in the feedback that makes sense to you.

## **Don't be afraid to start over**

Circling back to the first tip, start early to allow yourself to start over if you need to. It's important that you feel confident and proud of your personal statement. Sometimes, your first idea for what to write isn't your best idea. Don't be afraid to try and try again until you feel like you're accurately represented in your statement.