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**6 Ways to Stand Out on Your Admissions Essay**

Your college admissions essay is one of the most powerful parts of your overall application. It gives you the chance to showcase your personality and provides college admissions officers with a deeper insight into you as a person and why you are interested in attending their college. While good grades are a big part of your college application, never overlook or rush your college admissions essay even if your grades are exceptional. When you are being compared side-by-side with someone for one place, the admissions essay will likely be the final decider in the admissions process. If you are looking to make your essay stand out from the crowd this year, follow these simple tips below for writing an effective admissions essay.

**1. A Strong and Attention-Grabbing Introduction**

The introduction to your admissions essay should grab your reader’s attention from the first few words. As with any piece of writing or academic work, a reader often judges the entire essay from just the first impression. While this may seem unfair, remember college admissions officers are reading hundreds of essays, and they’ll all very quickly start to seem the same after a while. Your opening paragraph should be unique and offer a clear insight into what will be covered in your writing. It should set the tone for your admissions essay while still also being intriguing enough for the recipient to continue reading further into the essay. Starting with a fun anecdote or shocking fact can grab your reader’s attention and make you stand out straight away.

**2. Don’t Be Too Serious**

While applying for college is certainly a serious matter, your admissions essay should also showcase your personality. Adding a little humor into your essay is never a bad idea and will certainly break up the repetition for the admissions officer. It only needs to be one or two sentences long, as opposed to a whole comedic essay, but it will be enough to bring a smile to someone’s face. A funny opening line can then transition into a more deep and meaningful conversation about the topic of your choice. You want the reader to have a complete idea of your personality, interests, and aspirations from the essay, but it doesn’t need to be done in a serious or boring manner to achieve this desired result.

**3. Discuss Unique Interests**

There are simply hundreds of interests a high school student could have, but the majority of college applicants focus on the same topics. While team sports, academic pursuits, and leadership skills are important to highlight, if you have an unusual interest or hobby, use your admissions essay as a chance to showcase this. When you write about something that lights you up, this will be reflected in your work and make your essay stand out from the hundreds of others that are being reviewed that day. If you are worried that your interests are too niche or bizarre, they are probably the exact type of thing you should be writing about. Of course, you’ll want to link your interests to your education and college application. This should be fairly simple to do, as most activities teach us important skills and help to develop us as individuals. Highlight leadership, teamwork, dedication, and commitment within any passion you mention.

**4. The Presentation of Your Admissions Essay**

We often spend so much time worrying about the content of an essay and completely overlook its format. Ensure you are consistent throughout your writing, especially when it comes to writing dates and numbers. Use an attractive font and a simple but effective format that will stand out in a pile of admissions essays. Break your essay into readable sections, and don’t let your paragraphs get too long. While this may sound like very basic advice, you’ll be surprised how many students overlook this.

Finally, ensure you have read your admissions essay multiple times before submitting it. Even just one or two grammatical or spelling errors could completely throw the reader off when reading your essay and change their opinion on your writing. These are some of the most common mistakes high school students make, but submitting a perfect admissions essay will showcase your attention to detail and maturity.

**5. Follow a Logical Structure**

When you are reading an essay or book, there’s nothing worse than repetitive text or a story that is written in a manner that’s difficult to follow. Your admissions essay should follow a clear structure and a logical order. By reading your essay a few times before submitting it, you can check the transitions and paragraphs are ordered in a sensible manner. The introduction and conclusion should form the bookends of your writing and help to make the work come around in a full circle by the end. Ask your parents or a teacher to read your essay through and take their feedback onboard. You’ll want to ask them if the order and structure made sense and if they could follow the story you are trying to tell throughout your writing.

**6. Wrap Up Your Essay with the Conclusion**

The conclusion is the final chance you have to make a good first impression on the reader. Just as you want to take time and care to craft the perfect introduction, do the same with the conclusion. The conclusion shouldn’t suddenly introduce anything new or shocking that should be discussed earlier on in the work. Instead, it should work to loop back round to what you started discussing at the very beginning of your work. Your conclusion doesn’t need to be particularly long but should make a final statement that will win over any college admissions officer.

Your college admissions essay is something you’ll want to take your time writing. By planning your essay in advance and following a clear structure, you’ll write the perfect essay that will excite and intrigue any reader. Make sure you read your essay repeatedly before submitting it to minimize the chance of making minor errors. These small details are always noticed by college admissions officers and will make or break your chance of getting into your top college.