

Writing Your College Application Essay

3 “parts” to your essay

- **The Story**

- A “scene” that sets the stage to reveal your message
- The “hook”
- Write creatively
- Use quotes and vivid language
- Show don't tell
- Reads like a story

- **Your Message**

- What do you want the school admissions representative to know about you?
- What is something they wouldn't know by looking at your grades and test scores?
- It could be:
 - A personality trait
 - Something you are proud of
 - A mistake and lesson learned
 - Your view of the world
 - A hope for the future
 - A regret from the past

- **So What?**

- Why does the school care to know this about you?
- What impact has or will this have?
- How are YOU the better for this?
- What do they gain by having you on campus?
- This is the part where you make them want you because of who you are!!!!
- Be introspective and deep....

College Application Essay Tips

- The best thing you can do is just start writing.
- Pick either Your Message or The Story and write it as a stand alone paragraph or two (or 3)
- Then do the other one.
- Write So What - (write it as if you are explaining it to someone!)
- The last part is simply deciding how you want the essay to flow based on what you have written. Cut and paste. Cut and paste.
- DO NOT DELETE anything...just move it to the bottom of your working document.
- Check your word count and add or delete as needed
- If adding - focus on detail
- If deleting, focus on what is not relevant.
- **Remember....all drafts are productive. Essays are a work in progress!**
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