



# 7 Tips for Parents

## How to Avoid Arguments with Teens Over Writing the College Essay

The college application season is a stressful time.

### ***You may have told your teen:***

You need to get started on your essays, dear.  
You really must make time for this.  
You'll never finish the essays on time!

### ***Your teen may have "barked" back:***

What's the rush?  
I will!  
Stop nagging!

Diffuse tensions ahead of time with planning and preparation:

**1**

### **Begin the process early.**

The summer before the senior year is preferable.

**2**

### **Review the essay writing steps.**

Thinking up a topic, writing drafts, and editing essays for spelling, grammar mistakes are essential steps.

**3**

### **Agree on deadlines to complete these tasks.**

Use a calendar but be ready to change these dates if other obligations, such as SATs or homework coincide.

**4**

### **Consider reducing other obligations.**

Extracurricular activities, volunteering, *and* a part-time job may overload a teen.

**5**

### **Get organized.**

Use an Excel sheet to list what essays are required for which schools.

**6**

### **Arrange regular, 10-minute "consultations" .**

Meet in the car, for coffee – to check on his progress (or lack of) *and* brainstorm solutions to issues with him.

**7**

### **Be realistic.**

Does your teen find writing taxing? Completing 10 supplement essays she needs to apply to five colleges may be too many.

**Remember: The process will soon be over;  
your relationship with your child is forever.**

## For more information

call 617.584.5295 or email [Debby@academicsupportlink.com](mailto:Debby@academicsupportlink.com)

[theacademicsupportlink.com](http://theacademicsupportlink.com)

Find The Academic Support Link on facebook

