



THE ACADEMIC  
SUPPORT LINK

## Be a Standout on the College Application Admissions Essay

# 10 Tips

- 1 Know Thyself**  
Make sure your essay doesn't read like a resume. Instead, reveal the real you. Reflect on the depths of your experiences.
- 2 Don't reinvent yourself**  
It's fine to be a writer on the school newspaper, instead of the editor-in-chief. Tell your story.
- 3 Brainstorm Ideas**  
Try a 10-minute idea generator – jot down your strengths, experiences – whatever pops into your mind. Ask for feedback/ideas from your family.
- 4 Focus on a simple idea**  
Pick a project or passion that reveals what is important to you and who you are.
- 5 Find the right lead sentence**  
You need to catch the admissions officer's attention right away!
- 6 Organization is key**  
Just like a writing assignment in English class, you need a well-organized essay. Remember – the conclusion is critical.
- 7 Avoid controversy**  
Give your opinion but make sure you appeal to a wide audience.
- 8 Be passionate**  
Be passionate about what you decide to write about. You can't fake it!
- 9 Know why you want to go to a college**  
This may be an essay question. Make sure you get the facts correct about programs available there.
- 10 Give your essay the "test of time"**  
After you write the essay, leave it for a few days and come back to it with a fresh eye.

### For more information

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