



The 3 Keys to Write a College Essay That Wins

Know thyself

What are your core values? What matters to you that you want to share with the world?

Try NOT to be too scattered -- this is only one essay -- but whether it's friendship, compassion, intellectual challenge, social justice, diversity, March Madness, overcoming adversity, assorted pretzels, emotional and physical health, your responsibilities of being an older sibling etc. Whatever it may be, you must REVEAL something about yourself that makes you different from anyone else.

Your Voice, Your Style

Everyone writes differently. If you do not know what your style is, ask your English teacher. Or your aunt who you share your ideas and essays with. With your college essay, you CANNOT try to write like someone else. Can other people (school counselor, private counselor, teacher, parent, friend) offer suggestions for revisions? Yes. Can someone else help you to proofread? Absolutely. Should anyone else sit at your computer and type it for you and you give dictation? Never!

Trust yourself and your style. This is a craft that cannot be faked; colleges will see right through it and you may lose in the admissions process.

Be Vulnerable

This is hard. None of us likes to show strangers our deepest selves, especially in written form. But here is your chance to do what most people won't do; write from your heart, not solely from your head.

Being a giver with words is an appreciated skill and, more than that, it's memorable. Dig deep into who you are and what's core to your self-philosophy (know thyself!) and share. Again, you will distinguish yourself in the admissions process and you'll be super proud of how you told your story.