

Essays

- This is where you can put your own voice into your application. We want to hear you, a 17 or 18-year-old student, no one else!
- From this essay we're hoping to learn something about you, how you think, and to hear your voice. There is no formula you have to follow: we take traditional essays, poems, or anything else you can think of. We usually suggest about 2 pages double-spaced, paying special attention to the 4 T's: technique, topic, tone, and time.
 - TECHNIQUE: Read your essay out loud to make sure you are using correct grammar and accessible language. We're not looking for the biggest words of all time; we want to hear how you speak.
 - TOPIC: Also, as much as we love reading about how amazing grandma was, and your essay has probably convinced us that we would definitely admit grandma if she was a college-aged student, we want this essay to be about you. Also beware of crossing the TMI line with your admissions counselor. You want to be remembered, but not for something bad or inappropriate. We want to know what is important to you and who you are!
 - TONE: We strive to read between the lines of your essay. We're looking for students who are kind to their teachers, good roommates, and nice community members
 - TIME You need to give yourself enough time to write a good essay. This is not the essay to start the night before. Read, and re-read your essay multiple times because you only get to turn it in once.
- Be specific in your essays. If a school asks you why you want to attend, make sure you give evidence that could only be applicable to their school
 - Ie: You don't want to say you want to attend University of Chicago because you love the city of Chicago (you could also go to Northwestern, UIC, etc.). You want to talk about the specific academic curriculum (The Core), activities/ clubs on campus you want to get involved in, the experience you had visiting campus, etc.