THE COLLEGE ESSAY
WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR
WHAT WE ASK THE STUDENT TO DO

Topics
Format
Style
TOPICS

Essay A:
Describe a setting in which you have collaborated or interacted with people whose experiences and/or beliefs differ from yours. Address your initial feelings, and how those feelings were or were not changed by this experience.

Essay B:
Describe a circumstance, obstacle or conflict in your life, and the skills and resources you used to resolve it. Did it change you? If so, how?

Essay C:
Considering your lifetime goals, discuss how your current and future academic and extra-curricular activities might help you achieve your goals.
FORMAT

- All applicants are required to complete Essay Topics A and B.
- Applicants who do not qualify for top 10% or automatic admission are strongly encouraged to complete Essay Topic C. Essays are may be important for scholarship consideration.
- An average essay is about one to one-and-a-half pages in length. This is not a writing test, but rather an opportunity for us to get to know them better.
- Either single- or double-spacing is acceptable, however, college admissions officers usually express a general preference for double-spacing.
- Always use a standard, easily readable 12-point font. Never use a script, hand-writing, colored, or other decorative font.
- Attach directly to ApplyTexas application
**STYLE**

What sets one student apart from the other talented candidates. Don’t repeat what we already know.

Write a personal, thoughtful essay about something that has meaning for you. Don’t write an essay on what you think will impress the reviewer. Be honest and genuine and your unique qualities will shine through.

Your writing should be clear and concise. Colleges are simply looking for thoughtful, motivated students who can express themselves and will add something to the freshman class.

Sounding like a Thesaurus does not win style points. Do you really talk like that?
STYLE (CONTINUED)

Humor is okay but don't overdo it. An essay that is filled with bad puns or off-color humor will often end up in the rejection pile. Remember who your audience is. Many students have been rejected for failing to take the prompt seriously and writing essays that end up being more foolish than clever.

Grammatical problems, punctuation errors, and spelling mistakes can hurt your chance of being accepted. Excessive errors are distracting and make your application essay difficult to understand. Even just a few errors, can be a strike against you. They show a lack of care and quality control in your written work, and success in college partly depends upon strong writing skills.
WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR

• New Information
• Core Values
• Special Circumstances
• Answer the question
• Clarity
• Concise
• Grammar and Spelling
• Tone
YOU DECIDE: CASE STUDY
QUESTIONS