

COLLEGE APPLICATION ESSAY FORMAT SAMPLE

Are you in the University Transfer Program here at Alamance Community College and applying to colleges and universities in order to obtain a bachelor's degree? If so, you will soon be filling out college applications, which almost always include an essay section. Sometimes it is hard to think of what to write about. This workshop will help you to brainstorm ideas for your admissions essay as well as to write and revise it.

There are two reasons why colleges ask you to write an essay as part of your application:

1. To show the admissions committee who you are, in addition to what you've done.
2. To show the admissions committee you can write.

Step 1: Brainstorming. First, get some ideas about what you can write about.

The application essay is the only place on the application where you can express your personality—who you are and why you would be a good fit for a college's sophomore class. Imagine that admission counselors are reading hundreds, if not thousands, of applications quickly. They want to be surprised, excited, drawn in because you are unique, interesting, innovative, committed, undaunted by failure, fascinating, or somehow different from the crowd. The college application essay can make your application stand out and be noticed. The essay is the only place to be creative, innovative, and interesting in the entire application.

List as many things you can think of that are creative, innovative, and/or interesting about you _____

List some things you own, that are in your room at home, that are probably unique to you, and that let your personality come through _____

With only an approximate 650 word limit you won't have space to reveal everything about yourself, but you will have an opportunity to highlight a slice of who you are. You want that slice to be interesting and engaging. College admission counselors want to know how well you write, but they also want to know about your "thought process, values, preferences and style". So what you write about is as important as how well you write it. It is the only opportunity you have to tell the application committee a little about yourself, your values, your enthusiasm, your creativity, and your writing ability. Assume that they have already looked at your grades, your recommendations, your resume, your application itself—they read the essay last.

What have you done that showed your creativity? _____

What have you done that showed your enthusiasm? _____

What have you done that showed your values? _____

What do you do that people find interesting or unusual? _____ -

Do you have a hobby that is a passion or that is unusual? _____

Do you have a favorite quote or saying that guides you? _____

If you were a character in a novel or a play, who would you be? _____

(The novel has to be well-known)

Have you ever met any one person who has influenced your life radically? Who? _____

Have you experienced an event that changed your life forever? If so, what? _____
