

HELPFUL TIPS FOR COLLEGE ADMISSIONS ESSAYS

(Brought to you by college admissions counselors from UC Berkeley, Amherst College, and Cornell University.)

- College essay is about thinking and **reflecting**. It is really personal insight and not really an essay!
- It **should not sound sophisticated!** Admissions counselors know how 17 & 18 year olds really write, not typically too sophisticated.
- It should be **revealing** (information about yourself that is NOT already in the body of the application.)
- It should be **honest** (even if you think your life is not exciting, it really is!) Don't make up or expound on the details of your life, just be real, be honest.
- **Admissions counselors want to get to know YOU** through your essay (not your parent or the company you paid to help with your application process). Yes, admissions counselors typically know if the essays were written by someone other than the student!
- **Content is most important!** They know 17 year olds are not always the best spellers and punctuation is a problem. Be sure you double check these things but it's not the end of your admission if you misspell a word! **CONTENT, INFORMING THEM ABOUT YOU IS #1!**

ret formula: Be yourself and write from the heart!