

Tips for Writing Admission Essays

Admission essays serve to highlight the intellectual capabilities of a student and provide an insight into his/her writing abilities and thought process. It is a very important component of the application process. Essays serve as evidence that a student can support ideas with logical arguments in addition to providing insights into the personality of the student.

Guidelines

Make sure that you set out to write your essays well in advance. Stalling them until the application deadline will only ruin your chances of being accepted. While going through the essay prompts and questions, think in detail and make a list of the various approaches you will take to answer each one. Plan out an outline of the essay and formulate all the arguments or claims you will be making. Write a first draft of your essay and then scrutinise it in depth. Follow up with a second draft by editing and rearranging the content of your first draft wherever necessary. Revise again and proofread for grammatical and language errors.

Always make sure you use concise and simple language. Do not go over the top with the use of sophisticated words. Rather than looking at your vocabulary, admission officers assess the clarity of your ideas. Avoid using vague statements or clichéd phrases. Also make sure you do not use cultural references or talk about sensitive (such as political) issues. Avoid repeating too much information that is already there on your application or SOP.

Important tips

- Reflect upon the essay topics and prompts in depth before starting to write the essay.
- Don't hesitate to describe your achievements. However, make sure you do so in a modest manner.
- Do your research. While answering university/course specific essay questions, make sure you have done enough research on the university/course before writing the essay.
- Never go over the word limit specified in the instructions.
- Be honest, avoid over-exaggeration or self-admiration.
- Provide accurate information and make sure you don't make blunders while replicating information (for e.g.: writing the wrong author's name for a book you've read).



- While discussing sensitive political or cultural issues, strike a balance between your arguments and counterarguments. Do not try to impose your own agenda/opinion on the issue.
- When the essay question asks you to talk about a fictional or historical character, a literary piece, etc., make sure you have researched them well before writing the essay.

