

Tips for Writing Your College Essay

What admissions counselors are looking for.....

- ◆ You! The person behind the SAT scores, GPA and extracurricular activities.
- ◆ Surprise! An unexpected angle on your topic-even if the experience you're writing about is ordinary.
- ◆ Genuineness! Writing as yourself, without pretension.
- ◆ Thoughtfulness! Thinking about your experience and its meaning to you or to others (or both); showing through your reflections that you are a person on whom nothing is lost.

What admissions counselors want to find.....

- ◆ Clarity and originality of thought
- ◆ Maturity
- ◆ Consistency in use of language
- ◆ Applicants willing to provide a window into their personality, values and character
- ◆ Demonstration of writing skills
- ◆ Ability to organize thoughts
- ◆ Something new that the counselor can glean about the applicant's individuality through the choice of topic and its development
- ◆ Brevity
- ◆ A distinct beginning and ending, with a thoughtful essay in between