

Tips for Writing Your College Essay

What admissions counselors are looking for.....

You! The person behind the SAT scores, GPA and extra-curricular 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