

Writing Application Essays for Graduate Schools and Internships

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Going for a strike! Ten pins to success:



1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

Sample A: Who would you interview?

Dr. Peter Safar, the Australian physician that pioneered cardiopulmonary resuscitation, once said: “The best way to predict the future is to create it yourself!” Yes, the future is uncertain but we can prepare ourselves with the necessary skills to face it

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This program would give me the scientific, cultural and professional experience to network with people that have different interests and points of view. This opportunity would be of great personal and professional growth for my future because I will be able to learn new procedures, and research techniques; at the same time, improve leadership and teamwork skills.

Sample B Who would you interview?

Being born is an act of defiance. No matter the circumstances, time or place, birth is inevitable. Against all the imaginable and unimaginable odds the human body manages to reproduce itself in the most orchestral way.

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As they maneuvered through complicated surgeries or biopsies they patiently answered any question that I nervously blurt out. I began ingesting and absorbing the right nutrition, research and clinical information, that have sustained me to this day. Now that I have travelled and ingested the right nutrients from my surroundings I am prepared to embark on a new journey, implantation and development inside the School of Medicine. This journey will culminate with the birth of a physician.

Sample C: Show don't tell

The humid, thick air hits my burning forehead. Adrenaline is flowing through my veins, I can feel it in the tip of my fingers. Breathe in, breathe out. I feel my heart pumping in my throat, I hardly breathe. Drops of sweat are running wildly in my back. Breathe in, breathe out. “I’m not tired” I say to myself, but my legs are aching and blood is running down my knee, but i don’t feel pain. Breath in, breath out. The referee blows the whistle and suddenly I find myself sprinting towards the ball.

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As I push through the pain in my soccer games, I push through what I want for my career. I may fall and lose at times but it doesn't stop me if I want something. It's the process of what makes a professional.

Sample D: Superior tone

Why do people choose desire over necessity?

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A scientist myself, I felt trivialized. However, deep reflection brought me to an understanding, they don't know science. How many people don't know science? Most people in America don't even know that evolution is not just a theory but an observable fact. Some people are even unaware of the most basic rules of Physics or how Entropy works. The world is not so simple though.

This essay got a high-school senior into 5 Ivy League schools and Stanford:

Managing to break free from my mother's grasp, I charged. With arms flailing and chubby legs fluttering beneath me, I was the ferocious two year old rampaging through Costco on a Saturday morning. My mother's eyes widened in horror as I jettisoned my churro; the cinnamon sugar rocket gracefully sliced its way through the air while I continued my spree. I sprinted through the aisles, looking up in awe at the massive bulk products that towered over me. Overcome with wonder, I wanted to touch and taste, to stick my head into industrialized freezers, to explore every crevice. I was a conquistador, but rather than searching the land for El Dorado, I scoured aisles for free samples. Before inevitably being whisked away into a shopping cart, I scaled a mountain of plush toys and surveyed the expanse that lay before me: the kingdom of Costco.

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My intense desire to know, to explore beyond the bounds of rational thought; this is what defines me. Costco fuels my insatiability and cultivates curiosity within me at a cellular level. Encoded to immerse myself in the unknown, I find it difficult to complacently accept the "what"; I want to hunt for the "whys" and dissect the "hows". In essence, I subsist on discovery.

<https://www.businessinsider.com/high-school-senior-who-got-into-5-ivy-league-schools-shares-her-admissions-essay-2016-4>

Some of the most common grammar errors:

- Run-on Sentence (and Comma Splice) e.g., I am really excited about this opportunity, I know it will help me achieve my short-term goals.
- Pronoun Problems, e.g., Everybody have to visit the dentist.
- Apostrophe Mistakes, e.g., Its always been my dream to help children's learn.
- Lack of Noun/Verb Agreement, e.g., These opportunity are good for students.
- Misplaced Modifiers, e.g., At eight years old, my father showed me his clinic.
- Translation errors, e.g., Was the biggest dream of my childhood.
- Shifting verb tense, e.g., When I was in school, I have a great teacher who help me.

STAGES:

- ✓ Read instructions and generate ideas that respond to the prompt
- ✓ Choose your focus to make a first impression
- ✓ Write a first draft with a narrative making sure your show, don't tell
- ✓ Share your draft and accept feedback
- ✓ Edit based on feedback, avoid cliché, control tone
- ✓ Proofread, Proofread, Proofread
- ✓ Read the Instructions again

Ideal timespan to plan for success: _____ ?

A couple of useful resources:

Online grammar-check software: grammarcheck.net

Get some help with how to begin writing applications at The Writing Centre, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill: <http://writingcenter.unc.edu/tips-and-tools/application-essays/>

Writing Tips: Personal Statement. Centre for Writing Studies. University of Illinois.
<http://www.cws.illinois.edu/workshop/writers/tips/personalstatement/>