**College Essay Writing Tips  
Write an Effective Application Essay**

A great application essay will present a vivid, personal, and compelling view of you to the admissions staff. It will round out the rest of your application and help you stand out from the other applicants. The essay is one of the only parts of your application over which you have complete control, so take the time to do a good job on it. Check out these tips before you begin.

**Dos**

**Keep Your Focus Narrow and Personal**  
Your essay must probe a singe point or thesis. The reader must be able to find your main idea and follow it from beginning to end. Try having someone read just your intro to see what he thinks your essay is about.  
Essays that try to be too comprehensive end up sounding watered-down. Remember, it’s not about telling the committee what you’ve done- they can pick that up from your list of activities- instead, it’s about showing them who you are.

**Prove It**  
Develop your main idea with vivid and specific facts, events, quotations, examples, and reasons. There’s a big difference between simply stating a point of view and letting an idea unfold in the details

**Be Specific**  
Avoid clichéd, generic, and predictable writing by using vivid and specific details.

**Don’ts**

**Don’t Tell Them What You Think They Want to Hear**  
Most admissions officers read plenty of essays about the charms of their university, the evils of terrorism, and the personal commitment involved in being a doctor. Bring something new to the table, not just what you think they want to hear.

**Don’t Write a Resume**  
Don’t include information that is found elsewhere in the application. Your essay will end up sounding like an auto biography, travelogue, or laundry list. Yawn.

**Don’t Use 50 Words When Five Will Do**  
Eliminate unnecessary words.

**Don’t Forget to Proofread**  
Typos and spelling or grammatical errors can be interpreted as carelessness in writing. Don’t rely on your computer’s spell check, it can miss spelling errors.