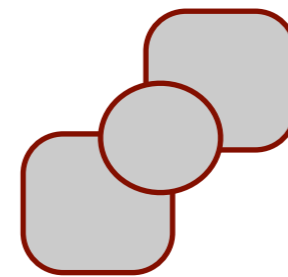


College Application Workshop



Austin College Prep Consulting
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Introduction

- My Story and Passion
- The Application Process

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Application Basics

- Test Scores
- GPA
- Class Rank
- Transcript
- Extra Curricular Activities
- Essays and Personal Statement
- Letters of Recommendation
- Talent and Passion

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College Application Essay

- Convey your passions and interests
- Write in your own tone of voice
- Be persuasive and compelling
- Writing is an iterative process
- Don't be afraid of constructive criticism

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Essay Question

- Evaluate a significant experience, achievement, risk you have taken, or ethical dilemma you have faced and its impact on you.
 - This is a common essay question. It's very broad and shows your ability to describe something of importance to you, how you've responded as a person - maturity level - and gives Admission's Officers good insight into your core values.

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Essay Part I

- **Evaluate a significant experience, achievement, risk you have taken, or ethical dilemma you have faced** and its impact on you.

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Dissect the Essay

- For what is the essay asking?
 - At its core, it's asking you to evaluate something and describe the impact of that something.
- What could be possible examples of a significant experience?
 - Parents' separation, death in the family, move to another state/location, abuse you overcame, economic situation, family situation, growing up with a single parent or without parents, adversity that you've overcome.
- What could be possible examples of an achievement?
 - Making varsity, state champion, team captain, Honor Society, student council, summer job, music art or talent, mentor or volunteer work, being a role model to someone else.

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Dissect the Essay

- What could be possible examples of a risk you've taken?
 - Starting a club at school, speaking out against something, befriending someone that society deems unlovable, taking a trip somewhere, investing financially in something, taking a different course of action than other people expect or desire, following a path less traveled, trying out for a team.
- What could be possible examples of an ethical dilemma you've faced?
 - Gossip, cheating in school, finding money that does not belong to you, lying vs. telling the truth, etc.

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Essay Part II

- Evaluate a significant experience, achievement, risk you have taken, or ethical dilemma you have faced **and its impact on you.**

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Impact on You

- What could this be?
- Have you changed your outlook?
- Have you been inspired by this event?
- Have you been hurt by this event? If it's a hurt, how are you dealing with the hurt?
- What do you do differently as a result of this experience, achievement, risk?

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What to Avoid?

- Polarizing Topics
 - Political affiliations and viewpoints.
- Topics That are not Significant Enough
 - When you made honor roll—likely this isn't significant because it happens all the time, nothing new; when you took a misguided risk; etc.
- Anything Illegal
 - You don't want to put the Admission's Officer in an awkward position.

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Conclusions

- Putting it Together and Choosing the Right Combination—Why Choose one Over the Other?
 - Whatever you're most passionate about is your best choice; the reader will feel your enthusiasm and your voice will come across.
 - Focus on what has shaped you the most, what has changed your life the most, what is most involved with your future, what you can offer to others.
- Know Your School
 - Is this a religious institution, a mechanical institution, a liberal arts school - knowing this will give you insight into what the college thinks is important.
 - If you are religious, but the school that you are applying to is secular, you may not want to reference your religious affiliation throughout all of your essays. This would be better received at a Religious University. You must be savvy in how you write and about what you write. Write in a way that is all-inclusive.

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Conclusions

- What Makes a Good Essay?
 - When you've answered the question being asked.
 - When the reader can clearly follow what you've written.
 - When the reader is moved by what they're reading—you've inspired them, you've shown a piece of who you are. You're vulnerable and honest.
 - When the reader has learned something they didn't know before.
 - When your voice comes across—does it sound like you or someone else? Are your interests and passions clearly articulated? Does this essay represent what really matters/ is important to you?
- Essay Length
 - Generally 250-1,000 word min and max with both a principal essay in addition to supplementary essays as well.
 - Approximately 4-5 essays to complete the application process.

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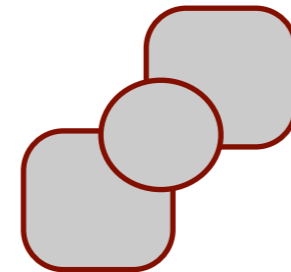
Questions

Feedback

- Please take time to fill out the feedback form and submit to me prior to leaving.
- On a scale of 1-10, how helpful was this writing workshop in helping you prepare for your college essays/college application process?
- On a scale of 1-10, how well did the content and the instructor match my level of understanding?
- On a scale of 1-10, how well did the instructor meet my expectations?
- What recommendations do you have for improving the workshop?

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- One-on-One Instruction
- Personal Statement Development
- Short Essay Response
- Academic Mentorship

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