

# College Application Essay Tips

The Average College Essay Is Between  
250 To 500 Words

It's a short blog (and you've read plenty of those, right?).

When you're ready, follow these simple tips and you'll be well on your way to creating an incredible college application essay you'll be proud to submit.

## 1. Be Concise

Most colleges set a minimum of 250 words for their application essays. They usually don't have a max, but aim for no more than 700 words, at most.

## 2. Use Proper Grammar

Use proper punctuation, spelling and double check everything.

## 3. Be Honest

Honesty is essential for a college application essay. Don't state you've earned awards you didn't, and avoid making it appear as though you're the best at everything you do. Just be yourself and be honest.

## 4. Be Likeable

How do you do that? Present yourself as someone humble, interesting and who would be able to hold an enjoyable conversation.

## 5. Get To The Point

Avoid babbling. Constantly evaluate your essay and ask yourself, "Can I shorten this at all?" If you can, do it.

## 6. Show, Don't Tell

This is one of the most commonly offered bits of writing advice, even for pros who make a living writing. It means if you can show a scene rather than telling it, do it.

Example of telling: When I was 15, I went to the park with my friends and found a squirrel that was hurt, so we brought it to a local veterinarian.

Example of showing: One afternoon at a local park with friends, we spotted a squirrel twitching and flopping around. Our first instinct was to walk away, but the cries emanating from it told me we had to help, so we gathered up an old box, carefully placed it inside, and called around until we found a vet in the area willing to help it.

## 7. Ask People To Read It

Have several people read your essay. Accept their advice, even if you don't agree with it at first. They'll have a completely different perspective than you.

