

College Essay Reminders
(Read Harry Bauld's – *On Writing the College Application Essay*)

Get Ready: Learn by example

Read a number of others' essays, good and bad

Get Set: Avoid the 9 Deadly Sins

The Trip and/or Outward Bound (how I broadened my horizons)

My Favorite Things (a list of fluffy things that tell you I'm nice)

Miss America (how I will work for world peace)

The Jock (how I learned the noble value, the great lesson)

The Three D's (discipline, determination, diversity)

Tales of My Success (how I overcame adversity to win the day)

Pet or Relative Death (how I learned to value life)

Selling and Telling – The Autobiography (I was born at a young age)

Go: Drafting Do's

Tell A Story Only You Can Tell

Make It A Slice Of Life – A Moment In Time

Provide Rich Detail

Use Metaphors

Be Very Selective With Adjectives

Editing: Spend a lot of time polishing

A Good Lead

The Anecdote (dive into the story, almost mid-stream)

The Why? (makes the reader ask the question)

The Shocker (takes the reader off balance)

The Curmudgeon (refutes conventional wisdom)

The Split (there are two types of people)..

The Confession (become the reader's confidant)

Stating the Obvious (that was hidden)

A Good Ending

Tied to the lead – but without repeating

Revising

Use informal voice

Make sure the tone sounds like you

Cut weak and waffle words (clearly, somewhat, rather, kind of)

Trim fat and simplify!

Cut (who, what, which, that, thing)

Swap: Lazy uses of "to be"

Cut: Needless restatements

Swap: Vague verbs - become, get, do, have

Swap: Passive verbs – use active voice

Prefer punch over perfect grammar