

Road2College's Essay Tips

An effective essay:

- **Illustrates** who you are and the potential you have.
- **Fully answers** the prompt with specific, memorable examples.
- **Shows** colleges why they should consider you.

7 Valuable Traits You Might Demonstrate:

- **Drive:** To do college-level work and achieve goals.
- **Curiosity:** To learn and grow.
- **Resourcefulness:** To overcome challenges in and out of the classroom.
- **Contribution:** To serve the community and help others.
- **Empathy:** To build relationships and engage with diverse people.
- **Leadership:** To inspire and guide others.
- **Expression:** To communicate ideas and emotions.

10 Steps to Write an Effective Essay

1. **Reflect** on your traits and experiences.
2. **Choose** your prompt and topic.
3. **Organize** your ideas into an outline and thesis.
4. **Grab** interest with a memorable opening that sets up your thesis.
5. **Stick** to your thesis without straying into side points.
6. **Show**, don't just tell. Use examples to illustrate and support your main points.
7. **Create** transitions to allow your thoughts to flow naturally.
8. **Finish** with a concluding thought that ties back to your thesis.
9. **Refine** it for flow, impact, length, spelling and grammar.
10. **Consult** with your Road2College coach at any point in the process, from the idea to your final essay.

Reading Resources

[College Essay Examples, Why They Worked, and Essay Tips](#) from Road2College

[2024-2025 Common App Essay Prompts](#) from Commonapp.org

How Road2College Will Help You

We will meet you wherever you are in the process.

- **If you've bought a [4-hour coaching package](#) and want help at the idea stage**, your assigned coach will schedule a Zoom with you to discuss your plans.
- **If you already have an essay or part of an essay**, share your Google Doc with your coach. We'll review and give you feedback in the doc. You also can ask questions in the doc. Or, if you still want a Zoom call even though you already have an essay, that's fine, too.
- **If you bought a single hour of review time**, share your Google Doc with us and we'll give you feedback within it. However, one hour won't allow time for a call.
- **If you need help with your Common App essay or college supplemental essays**, we're here for you. You can purchase additional coaching/editing time as needed.

