



The Application Authority™

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Common Essay Mistakes

Applicants make too many essay mistakes to count, but here a few common mistakes to avoid:

1. **Not Answering the Question** – The prompt asks a particular question, so answer it. The kiss of essay death is not answering the school's exact question. Feel free to get creative though!
2. **Too Long** – Schools impose word count restrictions for 2 reasons: 1. Admissions Officers read thousands of essays 2. Effective writers can communicate in fewer words (it's much easier to express yourself in 600 words vs 250 words). Stick within the word count restriction!
3. **Too Vague** – If any other person could write the essay you wrote, it's too vague.
4. **Improper Usage of Grammar and Punctuation** – You're a high school senior and this isn't a timed exam; your grammar and punctuation usage must be perfect.
5. **Bland Tone/No Voice** – See #3. Admissions Officers read thousands of essays, be you and be unique.
6. **Being Redundant** – If Admissions Officers don't learn something new from your essay, you're doing it all incorrectly.
7. **Unnaturally Using Big Words** – This relates to being YOU. Admissions Officers can tell when someone has used the good old thesaurus. Be natural and genuine.
8. **Being Negative** – Life certainly isn't all rosy, but you should ultimately cast yourself in a positive light.



Want to Learn More?

Work with us 1:1 and we'll guide you and ensure your essays are fantastic, genuine, and personal! We will always help you address the topic from a unique perspective, maintain the integrity and authenticity of your voice, and ensure the essay is grammatically and structurally perfect.