
Application Tips

Essay

- Essays will be evaluated on a rubric of five criteria
 - Focus and Purpose: essay directly addresses all aspects of the prompt with a focused thesis that engages the reader through an original approach to the topic
 - Analysis and Supporting Evidence: substantive and creative analysis with meaningful and extensive examples (personal or factual) and depth of thought, avoiding clichés
 - Style/Tone: keen awareness of the audience with a “voice” or tone appropriate to this assignment; writing is clear, concise, and crafted with attention
 - Essay Development/Organization: essay is well-developed and unified with smooth transitions; sentences and paragraphs build off one another
 - Mechanics: seamless paper; no grammar errors
- Personal anecdotes can be a great way to structure your essay, but make sure to tie the anecdote back to the prompt and thoroughly elaborate on the connection
- Take ample time to think about the essay prompt to formulate a unique idea and writing plan
- There are no right or wrong answers, so answer in a way that encompasses you and your critical thinking skills – not what you think the admissions committee wants to read

Resume

- Quantify! Either list the total number of hours you devoted to an activity or hours per week/weeks per year
- Highlight leadership roles and significant commitments
- Because the committee reviews your high school curriculum as part of the rubric, your education or classes are not necessary to include on your resume
- The committee doesn't make value judgements – they don't rank being an athlete or in band over having a part-time job
- The committee looks at both breadth and depth of experience

| DO | DON'T |
|---|--|
| be specific | be vague |
| keep the format simple and easy to read | include a photo of yourself |
| use your resume to tell us more about yourself | include information that is readily found in other parts of your application |
| include extra pages as necessary | include extra pages of filler information |
| include descriptions, accomplishments, and leadership | list activities without indicating level of commitment |
| expand or explain abbreviations | assume the selection committee is familiar with an organization or activity |