



College Essay Tutoring FAQ and Company Policies

How many sessions do you recommend for college essays?

Generally, the process requires 8-12 hours total; however, some students may require more time to complete the essays. We recommend following these guidelines to determine the number of tutoring hours to purchase:

- 1) Common Application (2-3 hours): 1 short answer Extracurricular/Work Experience paragraph (max. 100 words) and one Personal Essay (max. 500 words). Some students may opt to also answer the Additional Information essay.
- 2) Common Application Supplements (6-7 hours): Many schools that accept the Common Application also require students to complete a Supplement, which typically include 3-4 additional short answer essays. Some supplemental questions overlap (e.g., Describe how you will contribute to our university's goals), which may allow the student to use one essay with some minor revisions for multiple schools; however, many of the supplemental questions are unique to each school. For this reason, students typically need to write an additional 5-6 unique short answer essays to complete the supplements.
- 3) Non-Common Application Colleges/Universities (1-2 hours per school): Some schools do not accept the Common Application, but rather require students to complete a proprietary application. Typically, students are required to submit a Personal Essay (250-500 words) in addition to 2-3 short answer essays. Some of the essays used for the Common Application and/or Common Application Supplements may be modified and used for the College/University Specific applications.

What is the timeline for writing essays?

We recommend that students begin writing essays during the summer between 11th and 12th grade. Although Early Decision deadlines fall around early November and Regular Decision in early January, we have found that students write higher quality essays when they complete at least the Common Application Personal Essay prior to beginning their busy senior year. If your child is not available in the summer, we recommend that the student begin writing their essays no later than October 1.

Is there anything we can do to maximize the tutoring session time?

To maximize the tutoring session time, we highly recommend that the student arrive to the tutoring sessions with the essay question(s). If the student does not come with the essay question(s), we may need to spend tutoring time searching online for the question(s).

How do you advise students on choosing essay topics?

Our typical process begins with fielding possible topics with students and advising the student about effective ways to approach a topic. While we have several years experience supporting students in writing college essays, we do not advise on whether a topic “will look good” on a college application. We leave this sort of counseling in the hands of the student’s college counselor or a professional educational consultant. We are also happy to refer you to one of our highly qualified professional educational consultants.

What if I don’t like or have concerns about the essay topic that my child chooses?

We recommend that you speak to your child about your concerns. If you would like guidance regarding how to speak with your child about your concerns, we recommend that you schedule a Parent Academic Consultation and we can provide that support. Keep in mind, however, we have found that higher quality essays result from students who choose topics that interest them.

What about the “resume” portion of the Common Application?

We can assist the student in completing this requirement, which typically takes one hour to complete. The Common Application now requires students to include a list of their activities and job experiences, which is now commonly referred to as the “resume.” Students can submit this information using the online form or uploading a Microsoft Word or PDF document to the Common Application website.

Policies

Academic Integrity. Our Academic Integrity policy states that all work produced must be completed by the student. We will not write any part of the essay for the student and every essay must be an original piece of writing by the student. We will provide guidance regarding organization, sentence structure, grammar, punctuation and word usage. We will not review essays that have been drafted by parents or any other adults. We also do not work with parents to correct, modify or revise essay drafts. We work only with the student. Our essay support involves helping the student produce responses that accurately and honestly answer the questions and represent the student’s current academic level. While we

understand the desire to “perfect” essays before submission, changing any part of a student’s essay, particularly in collaboration with a parent, violates our Academic Integrity policy.

Online Application Support. We can walk students through the process of completing an online application; however, we are not liable for information that is entered incorrectly by the student. The student also must review the entire online application prior to attending the tutoring session so that they have all the information and components ready to complete (e.g., parent’s addresses, social security number, etc.). Parents will need to complete portions of most applications, specifically the application fee section. To help a student complete the non-parent portions of an application takes 1-2 hours per application.