

Essay Writing Tips

Explore the tips below and share with students and families to help with essay writing for college or scholarship applications and entrance exam essays. These tips are not exhaustive and can vary among types of essays.

Type of Essay	Tips
College Applications	Some college application systems, such as ApplyTexas, post their writing prompts for the next academic year prior to the opening date of the application. Encourage students to use those prompts to begin writing their drafts before and during summer. Students should always have their essays proofread by a counselor, teacher, mentor, or other school official. Remind students that a college application essay shouldn't feel like homework or a research paper; they should be telling their story.
Scholarship Applications	Essays are often one element of scholarship applications. It's helpful to have prewritten statements on goals, achievements, and financial need, though students must make sure to tailor their responses to address the specific topic.
Entrance Exam Essays	Encourage students to visit the College Board's Sample Questions page and ACT's Writing Sample Essays page for writing prompts to use as practice before the day of the exam. Students and their families can also search for more writing prompts through reliable sources like Khan Academy or the Princeton Review.