



X-GUIDE | WRITING A COLLEGE ESSAY

As you prepare to apply to colleges, you can start thinking about your essay now. This is your chance to paint a picture of who you are and why you are a good fit for the colleges you are considering.

WHAT COLLEGES ARE LOOKING FOR IN YOUR ESSAY:

- Your unique talents and identity are valued at our institution. We want to be able to envision you here.
- We want to see that you can think and write clearly and logically.
- We want to hear your voice through your essay.
- Be genuine, and be sure your essay is well thought out before drafting.

WHEN DETERMINING YOUR TOPIC:

- What can you write about that will answer the question in a compelling way?
- Is this a topic that we won't hear about from your peers?
- Will your answer be uniquely about you?
- Are you passionate about this topic? If you are (or if you are not) it will show in your writing.

ONCE YOU DECIDE ON YOUR TOPIC:

- Brainstorm. Think about your own unique experiences and passions and how they connect with this topic. Consider how you may bring all of this to contribute to the specific college(s) you are applying to.
- Construct an outline. Determine how you will introduce the topic, paint your picture, and wrap it all up in a conclusion.
- Start drafting. Realize that your first draft will not be your last. You will need to edit and cut in later versions, but start by getting it all on paper—then go back to edit yourself.
- Edit. Determine what is the most important information to share. Understand that you will likely have to cut some sentences or paragraphs, regardless of how well written they are.

NEXT STEPS:

Now that you have some tips to write a great college essay, get to know a little more about Xavier by **clicking the links below**:

→ **Explore Life at Xavier**

→ **Check out Making a Musketeer**

→ **Learn about our Admission Process**

→ **Connect with us on Instagram**

→ **Plan a Campus Visit**

→ **Discover Cincinnati**



Xavier University has over 90 majors and 60+ minors. Our students love the hands-on learning experience, mentorship, and study abroad programs that we offer. Learn more about what Xavier has to offer.

START YOUR JOURNEY

xavier.edu/apply