

## The College Essay

The college essay is often required by universities and colleges as part of their application criteria. This is a unique opportunity for them to learn and understand more about you beyond your transcript and test scores.

Depending on the school, the essay can be called different names. Usually, it is referred to as a personal statement. Your personal statement doesn't have to be long. It's the quality of what you are trying to say and convey that is important. Most schools limit essays to 250-650 words. Give them insight about yourself, who you are, and what you have been through. Take them on a descriptive narrative; be honest, genuine and creative!

When writing your essay: reflect, brainstorm, revise, and proofread. Get help and have others read/edit what you have written. Give it to your college counselor for final review.

### Why You?

- What are your passions?
- Why do you want to go to college?
- What have you overcome? How were you able to overcome this?
- What important lessons have you learned?
- What do you see for your future?
- Why would you be a good fit for a specific school?
- What are you interested in studying and why?

\*Talk about important experiences or events, your passions, responsibilities.

\*Reference achievements and accomplishments, if there is no resume required.

### Why Them?

- What are your reasons for wanting to attend this school? Be specific!
- Why are you applying? Research and visit school in person (or virtually).
- How will you be successful there?

\*Reiterate your intent to enroll and complete your degree!