



## Achieve Your Higher Education Goals

- 1) **Make yourself shine within your own story** – It's important that you don't repeat what has already been stated on your activity resume, but you should highlight your accomplishments in your essay- weave them into your story. Reveal your personality and perhaps your future goals in your writing.
- 2) **Be humble but don't be modest** – Don't underestimate yourself in any way and be proud and secure in who you are. Sincerely describe your most impressive accomplishments but don't overdo it.
- 3) **Be confident in your statements** – It's important to write as though you deserve gaining acceptance. Present yourself as unique with specific skills and passion.
- 4) **Use personal stories** – You really own your essay in this way and no one can tell YOUR story, this is what makes you unique
- 5) **Write descriptively** – Engage the reader and be specific about your experience. If writing a memorable story about a ride in the car and what you saw, have that reader sitting there with you. A good story is priceless and you will catch attention in this way. Use powerful imagery and personal anecdotes whenever you can. Leave readers with a lasting impression and it will serve you well come decision time!

### DO'S & DON'TS in College Essay Writing

#### DO

- Use personal detail- show, don't tell
- Be concise
- Vary sentence structure and use transitions
- Use active voice verbs
- Answer the question and follow directions
- Seek a few opinions
- Stay focused as you have a limited word count
- Revise, revise, revise and proofread

## **DON'T**

- Write chronologically- it can be boring
- Thesaurus “ize”- don't write what you think admission officers want to hear or use language that is not your own
- State a point of view without backing it up with details and examples
- Repeat what is listed on your activity resume
- Use slang

Your character is the hardest thing for admission officers to measure. The essay is your chance to reveal who you are: your passions, values, authenticity and sincerity. Be yourself!