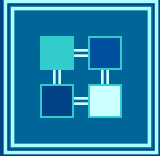


Organizing Your College Admission Essay

Outline



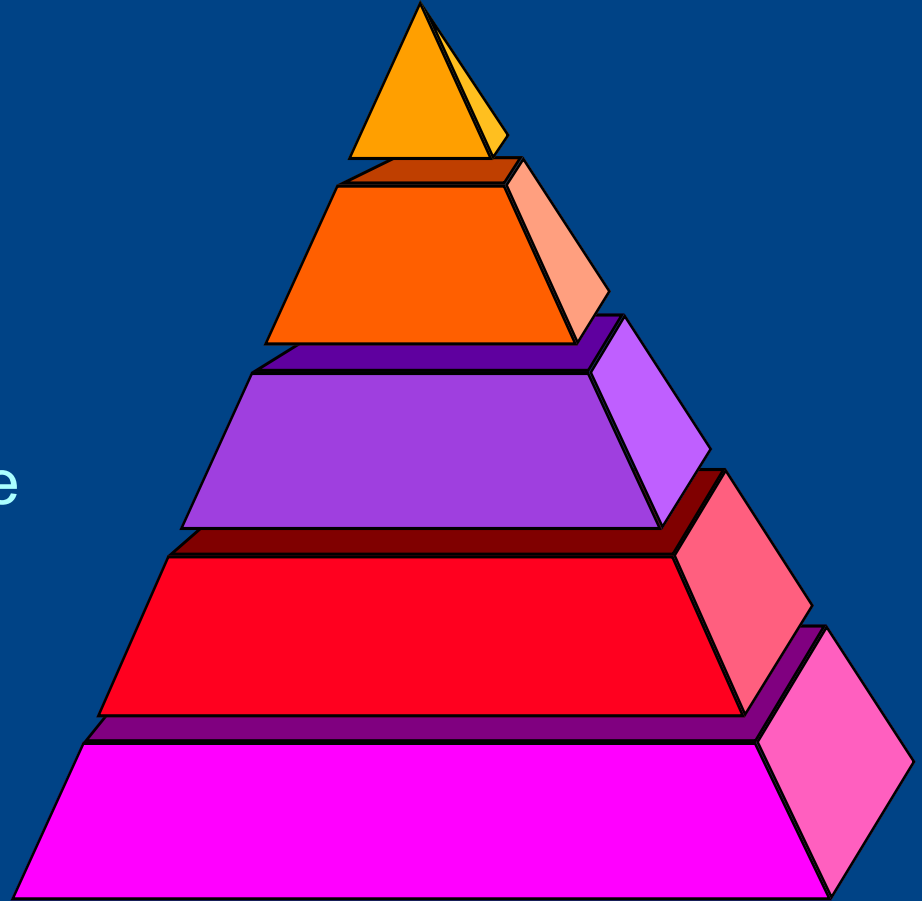
▣ Introductory Paragraph

- ⌘ Hook
- ⌘ Thesis statement

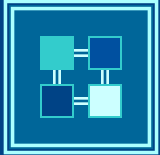
▣ Body Paragraphs

- ⌘ Transitional word/phrase
- ⌘ Topic sentence
- ⌘ Detailed example

▣ Concluding Paragraph



What is an introduction?

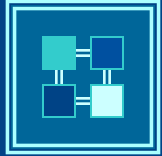


- ▣ Your hook generates interest in the essay. Remember, these committees are reading thousands of essays. Make yours stand out from the first sentence.



- ▣ Your thesis statement acquaints the reader with your topic and purpose. It also offers a preview of your argument.

Types of Hooks



- ▣ Vivid Anecdote (short story 1-2 sentences)

Ex: There was a time I didn't think I'd go to college, but that changed when I dissected a frog in biology class.

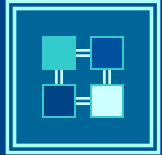
- ▣ Rhetorical Question

Ex: What if no one in your extended family of 25 had ever set foot inside a college classroom?

- ▣ Quotation

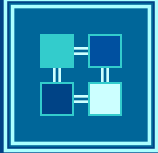
Benjamin Franklin said "An investment in knowledge pays the best interest" As a hopeful business major . . .

What is a Thesis Statement?



- ▣ Answers the question: “What am I trying to prove?”
- ▣ Preview your essay’s focus
- ▣ Example: My time as a Student Council member has prepared me to be a leader, a team player, and perfect my time management skills.
- ▣ Readers will expect one paragraph on each of the items you preview in your thesis.

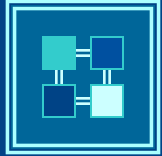
Topic Sentences



- Each body paragraph should have one focus.
- Create a topic sentence (or mini-thesis) for each paragraph. Make sure the rest of the paragraph lives up to the focus of the topic sentence.
- Employ transitional words & phrases in the opening sentence (likewise, on the other hand, furthermore, secondly, etc.)



Body Paragraphs



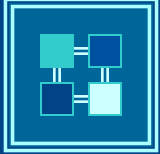
- Use real, detailed examples that support what you said in your topic sentence.
- Highlight your strengths and interests in a way that makes you stand out.
- Use proper vocabulary and grammar but a conversational style that makes the reader feel like you are there talking with them.



New York University



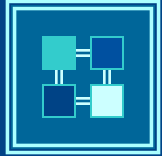
Conclusion



- ▣ Restate your thesis in slightly new words.
- ▣ Remind readers why you will benefit their college.



General Tips



- ❑ Proofread carefully. Do not rely on your spell check.
- ❑ Read your essay out loud to catch mistakes.
- ❑ Somewhere in the essay, mention at least one specific major, professor, organization, sport, internship, etc. you want to be involved with at that college.
- ❑ Include the right college name for each essay.
- ❑ Do not procrastinate.

