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e-Headline News

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Important Dates to Remember

April 17: AIMS
Summer Program
Orientation Session 1
at Murray State
University. 10.00 am -
12.00 pm.

May 7: AIMS Summer
Program Orientation
Session 2 at Memphis
Girls Inc. 6.00 pm -
8.00 pm.

...GOALS...

The unfortunate aspect
about living life without your
own goals is that you may
very well reach a point in
your life where you will
wonder, "what would have
happened if I had only
done..."

Catherine Pulsifer

"Do it now. You become
successful the moment you
start moving toward a
worthwhile goal."

Unknown

"Nothing can stop the man
with the right mental attitude
from achieving his goal;
nothing on earth can help
the man with the wrong
mental attitude."

Thomas Jefferson

C

College Essay

3 Steps to an Outstanding College Essay

A lot has been written about how the college essay is one of the most important parts of your application. There is also a great deal of material about the components of the ideal college essay and about how the college essay is your "one-way dialogue" with the admission officer(s).

Your approach to writing the college essay should not be particularly different from how you have gone about writing essays for class. The steps are the same, the stages are the same, and the process is the same - the only difference is that this time you'll be writing about yourself (and not about how Edison invented the light bulb) and never before has an essay about "you" been so instrumental in deciding the future course of your life. In many ways, your education, your career and basically the rest of your life depends on this one essay about yourself (that was just to scare you into getting serious!).

Now that we've established that this essay is your last ray of hope of a successful life, let's get down to business. The college essay will be written in 3 distinct steps:

1. Planning
2. Drafting
3. Tweaking (a.k.a. editing)

1. Planning

During this step, you must start collecting ideas, which will form the core of your essay. Remember, the college essay is usually asked for so the admission officer(s) can learn about you - so that should be the focus of most of your ideas.

Brainstorm About Your Qualities

Make a list of the qualities (positive and negative) which you would use to describe yourself. This first list includes all your strengths, weaknesses, and any other exceptionally strong characteristics. Remember, the emphasis of this list should be broad and conceptual in nature - try to list your personality characteristics and traits, not specific events or happenings. For example, you may have "exceptional communication skills" (not "I can make good speeches").

After this, make a second list of specific events, achievements and happenings of which you are particularly proud of. This is a more operational level list of things you've done and activities you've participated in. Now you have 2 lists, a list of "broad" qualities and a list of "specific" events and achievement.

· Research Yourself

Repeat the process above, but this time ask your family members, friends and relatives for input and feedback. More often than not, they will be able to show you qualities (good and bad!) about yourself, which you never thought you had.

· Link Qualities to Evidence



Now try to create links between the 2 lists you've developed. With the help of these 2 lists, when you start writing the essay you'll be able to provide "real-world" examples to support and backup the skills and qualities you have laid claim to. Using the previous example, when you claim that you have good "communication skills", you'll quickly be able to verify the authenticity of that claim by mentioning how you effectively used those skills to win the state debating championships.

· **Find Connections & Create an Outline**

Try to group similar ideas together and find further connections between your qualities and achievements. How did you win the state debating championship? Was it really because of your superior communication skills, or did the fact that you are quickly able to analyze and respond to arguments play a more important role? Or was it because you're a good researcher and have a great ability to absorb information?

2. Drafting

It's about time we started composing the actual essay. The essay will consist of three parts - introduction, body and conclusion.

· **Introduction**

The introduction is used to give the reader a feel of the essay, including an idea of the content. The introduction is usually several sentences long, but can also be one sentence if it fulfills the purpose. For example, a strong, concise statement sometimes eliminates the need for a longer introduction: "My 30 day vacation to Africa allowed me to learn more about myself than I have in the past 20 years."

· **Body**

The body of the essay is used to present ideas and arguments that support the main idea of the essay. In this part, you should try to use events and incidents to backup claims about yourself rather than simply going on and on about your great qualities.

· **Conclusion**

The conclusion is used to wrap up your ideas and present a result of what the events and descriptions in the body mean to you. Again, this can be a mid-sized discourse of the lesson you've learned, or can be a single, powerful sentence which conveys the same message: "The corporate rat-race is not for me... the satisfaction I get out of helping the underprivileged is indescribable, and that is what I intend to do with the rest of my life."

· **Essay Styles**

There are several types of essays format which you can use while composing your college essay.

- **Standard.** Traditional and safe, this is the essay style used by most college applicants. Use the important points from your outline and write one paragraph on each point, making sure th

at you provide plenty of "real world" evidence based upon actual events. Remember, this is your one-way dialogue and you should try to promote qualities or characteristics which would appeal to the admission officer(s), but are not particularly obvious from the rest of your application.

- **Focused.** In this approach, you focus on a single, powerful, interesting event or characteristic. This works especially well if you're supposed to write an extremely small essay. A slightly more imaginative approach than the standard essay, this will work well if the single event or topic you write about is exceptionally interesting.

- **Story.** In this type of essay, you employ the narration technique to pen down a short story and dramatic story. Remember to conclude the story with a short explanation of how the story or tale is related to you or has affected you. This approach could be particularly useful is the admission officer(s) are looking for creativity and absorbing writing skills.

3. Tweaking (a.k.a. editing)

When you've composed the first draft of your essay, it's time to go over it, correct errors, fix admissions, make improvements, and share it with a third party for independent feedback and suggestions. Even though you should bring others' opinions into consideration, remember that it's your life, your essay, your career, and you are the best judge of what to include (or not in the essay).

Editing...

Keep the following points in mind during the tweaking period:

· **Give it Some Time**

As mentioned before, development of the essay is an exercise which takes days, if not weeks. Don't try to complete tweaking in a day or two - give it some time and return to the task after a few days to see if your main idea is what you want it to be. Most probably in the "rest period" you will come up with a couple of points or arguments which you would like to add to your essay or use as a replacement to other ideas.

Similarly, when you share your essay with someone else, don't expect immediate feedback. Give them a few days to think about what you've written (remember to give it to someone who actually give it some thought!) and come to your with suggestions.

· **Simplify**

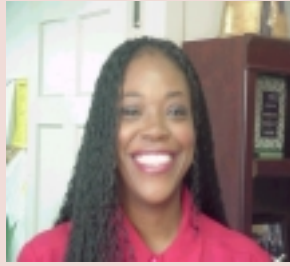
After making tons of term papers and reports, most students are used to using big words and sentences to explain theoretical concepts. That will not do. This is a personal essay, so try to simplify and straighten words out as much as possible. Instead of, "One of the greatest issues threatening modern society is the emergence and excessive use of narcotics.", you may write "Drugs are one of biggest problems facing society".

· **Proofread a Million Times**

Come on, I don't need to explain the significance behind that one, do I? PLEASE proofread a million times and make sure there are no grammatical, typographical, or writing style mistakes.

More information: visit http://collegeapps.about.com/cs/admissionessay/a/aa180503a_3.htm

The Director's Chair



Happy St. Patrick's Day!!!!!!

Make sure you wear green on the 17th of this month or you just might get pinched!!!! This was the tradition when I was in high school! You will have to call me and tell me if this tradition still exists! It has been many years since I graced the halls of a high school!!! Too many to tell!!!!

In just 2 short months, we will start our Summer 2004 Program!!! The bridge students will move in May 31, 2004! We barely finished storing away supplies from last summer and now here we are beginning again!!!! I look forward to seeing each of you, and welcoming the new members to our AIMS family!! Please make sure to make note of the orientation dates. If you will be unable to attend, please call and let me know. There are several important documents, which need to be completed prior to your arrival on campus.

As you have heard, Aik will be leaving the AIMS office to serve as an International Recruiter for the University! We wish him luck. His office building is located next door to the AIMS building! I'm sure you will see him throughout the program!

Please remember to send in or remind your counselors to send in your grade reports! Have a great month! I leave you with these words from Susan Polis Schutz:

*Everyone has the same emotions
Everyone has the same feelings
Everyone has the same desires
No matter where we live
Or what we believe in
All hearts must be one*

See you soon!

Doris

Oh..Well..

By Lillian Phillips

(Former AIMS Student and current AIMS student staff)

In life, there is always something inevitable. Children will grow up, students will graduate, and even friends will part. Most of these events result in some form of farewell. I am adamantly against the saying of "Good bye". I thought it was a horrible, terrible phrase that would be better if it were stricken from the English language.

Goodbye sounds so final, like it's the absolute end and you will never see that person again. It's more formal than its counterpart "bye". "Bye" is short and sweet, cheery, and you're left with the feeling that it won't be long until you see each other once more. "Goodbye" cuts a relationship like an ax. Perhaps I have this ridiculous thinking because I know that everything has to end eventually.

I was told today that "there are starting points and ending points". We all have to start somewhere with a goal in mind. We want to reach this goal and we go through different lengths in order to achieve our goals, but once this is accomplished, we're saddened with the farewells it brings. It was the journey we had enjoyed, the people that we had traveled with. It's a lesson to learn in life.

Yet, when one journey ends, another one always arises. On my most recent journey, I have learned that "Goodbyes" aren't forever. We have the memories of our trips to visit and the hope that we'll see each other again.





RISK

By Fran Watson
Copyright 1987

Do not be afraid to shine.
This world needs what you
have to give.
Open up the areas of your
being;
Expose them to yourself - to
others.

You are valuable.
You are unique.
You have much to give.
Do not be afraid to give it.

As we risk ourselves, we grow.
Each new experience is a
risk.
We can try, and maybe fail,
And, as a result, grow-
Or hold back and stagnate.
You have the potential
To be anything you want.
You are free to choose.
You are limited only by your
fears.
Let your dreams take over.
Fly with the eagles.
Soar into life.
The world is waiting for you



...It's time to say Good Bye...

*There always is the beginning...and there
always is the end. Nothing in this world is permanent,
everything is meant to be temporary. As sure as seasons
come and go, life is meant to move on.. as it should be..
and has to be.*

*I have enjoyed getting to know and working
with all of the AIMS students over the past two years.
Now, it's time for me to move on. It is so difficult to say
good bye to you.*

*Over these two years, my dear AIMS students,
you have brightened me up and made my days. You, of
course, gave me a lot of headaches over the summer
programs...you gave me excitement and happiness when
you would tell me about your academic achievements or
when you were accepted to the college of your
dream...and you gave me so much respect and trust.
Thank you for a great two years and a great time with
you and the AIMS program. Thank you for a great two
years of friendship. Thank you for a great two years of
love...Thank you...*

*I always say that I am so proud of you, my
AIMS students, and I just want you to know that I really
mean what I say. ...Good bye, my dear AIMS students...*

Aik Krutngoien

(If you want to talk to me, my email address is still the same)



Happy Birthday March

3/2 Mitch
Brown

3/2 Monique
Allen

3/4 Theodore
Dillman

3/5 Kristy
King

3/12 Lennette
Otis

3/15 Lucas
Carter

3/21 Orlando
Alexander

3/29 Emmitt
Taylor



A	I
M	S

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