

Writing the College Essay

Things to Remember

- Read the Mission Statement of the college where you're applying (UGA Admissions Philosophy)
 - excellence in academic achievement, intellectual pursuits and creative endeavors;
 - an understanding of and respect for intellectual, social and cultural differences;
 - significant commitment to citizenship through public service, school activities, community involvement, leadership and/or family;
 - evidence of integrity and personal maturity; and,
 - the ability to benefit from and contribute to a culturally and intellectually diverse community of scholar-citizens.
- Try not to repeat info we have already seen in the application unless you are expanding upon it
- DON'T tell us what you think we want to hear
- Make it unique to your personality and experiences
- Make sure you actually answer the question being asked
- Avoid sounding like a thesaurus
- Always remember to highlight yourself and accomplishments in a positive way
- PROOFREAD and have other people read your essays and provide feedback before submitting
- Understand the difference between "showing" and "telling" within an essay. Showing brings the reader into the topic, while telling focuses on descriptions and data.
- ALWAYS show respect for intellectual, social, and cultural differences.

Reading Scale

- Below Average – Poor writing, lacking in structure, voice
- Average – Basic writing, lacking in voice and depth
- Above Average – Solid acceptable writing, some voice, details
- Advanced – Well thought out essays, some creativity
- Excellent – Strong writing, creative individual
- Superior – Thoughtful and expressive writer, active in creative area