

Addendum:

Three samples of very different writing styles.

#1.

I love the heady cruelty of spring. The cloud shows in the first weeks of the season are wonderfully adolescent: “I’m happy!” “I’m mad, I’m brooding.” “I’m happy – now I’m going to cry” “The skies and the weather toy with us, refusing to let us settle back down into the steady sleepy days and nights of winter. “

Anne Lamotte, contemporary US writer and diarist.

#2.

I believe I have some idea of how the refugee feels, or the immigrant. Once, I was, thus, or nearly so And all the while I carried around inside me an elsewhere, a place of which I could not speak because no one would know what I was talking about. I was a displaced person, or a kind, in the jargon of the day. And displaced persons are displaced not just in space but in time; they have been cut off from their own pasts If you cannot revisit your own origins – reach out and touch them from time to time—you are forever in some crucial sense untethered.

Penelope Lively, a British author who spent her childhood in Cairo in the 1940’s.

#3.

Privacy in the workplace is one of the more troubling personal and professional issues of our time. But privacy cannot be adequately addressed without considering a basic foundation of ethics. We cannot reach a meaningful normative conclusion about workplace privacy rights and obligations without a fundamental and common understanding of the ethical basis of justice and a thorough understanding of individual and organizational concerns and motivations.

Laura Hartman is an academic who writes about ethics and technology.

These are people with different backgrounds and distinguishable voices.

What Jon Reider Would Have You Consider

Jon Reider is currently the Director of College Counseling at University High School, SF. Before that, he served for many years on the Admissions Committee of Stanford University.

CHICAV --- OOOOP – LI.

Coherent
Honest
Individualized
Concise
Accurate
Vivid

Obscure
Obnoxious
Obscene
Plagiarized

Likeable
Interesting.

What an Admissions Committee sees:

It sees the broad context of your essay,
not only in view of your personal application,
but of the entire applicant pool.

SO:

Never think that you are “original”.
Every possible topic has already been “dealt with” before.

THE KEY, therefore, is “HOW the topic is expressed”.
It is never the topic itself, but the truthfulness of the essay that is at stake.

The Admissions Committee is working long hours.
Extending those hours by writing too much is always a bad idea.
Any good essay can be made briefer and stronger.

