

ESSAYS WITH HEART



Helping students express who they are in their personal statements.

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A College Perspective

It's all about authenticity.

What is a successful/unsuccessful personal statement from a college's perspective?

What are common mistakes you see students make when you're reading their essays?

Any advice for counselors who are helping students with their personal statements?

The Three R's to Essay Writing

1. Reflect
2. Review
3. Refine



Reflect

Goal: Develop Self Awareness

Tools:

- Top 10 List
- Values / Adjectives Exercise
- Tree Activity
- Timeline

Review

Goal: Understand the Game

Growing Strawberries in a High School Locker

One day this year, as I was walking by my perpetually empty locker, I was struck by an idea. I cannot identify what sparked its conception, but as my idea started to grow, thinking of possible solutions and analyzing and assessing feasibility issues began to consume me. My father calls this a “designer’s high,” and it was very familiar to me. I’ve experienced it often while collaborating with my robotics team, and in the hours I’ve spent with my father on design concepts for his prefabricated homes. Still, nothing I had worked on before was similar to the feeling this “out of the box” idea had triggered.

Growing strawberries in a high school locker seemed fairly simple at first. Despite knowing that this is not the typical habitat for strawberry plants, I knew from my green-thumbed mother that strawberries are among the easiest fruits to grow. Many students and teachers became interested in my project, yet were skeptical of my botanical prowess and quick to conclude that a plant could not possibly receive its basic necessities in a locker which didn’t have proper ventilation, was hot and humid, and was shielded from

Adjectives to describe the author?

Strengths? Weaknesses?

Areas of interests?

Is this person a leader?

What do you think the writer might major in?

What could they bring to a college community?

Have students look for evidence to support their answers.

ESSAYS THAT WORKED



Refine

Goal: Convey your Message

Peer Editing Tips

How much help is too
much help?

Ready Made Resources

Prewriting Activities



College Essay Guy

www.collegeessayguy.com
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Sample Essays

ESSAYS THAT WORKED



JOHNS HOPKINS
UNIVERSITY

PERSONAL INSIGHT QUESTIONS:
GUIDE FOR FRESHMAN APPLICANTS

UNIVERSITY
OF
CALIFORNIA

Past Essays That Mattered

Tufts

Undergraduate
Admissions

Contact Information - Please Reach Out!

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