

ROAR* webinar “College Workshop Series: Writing Your College Essay”

1. Importance of your college essay:

- a. It is an interview on paper.
- b. It needs to be authentic, about you.
- c. Discuss what you are bringing to their college community - why would they want you there?
- d. Admissions counselors want to see strong writing, but it needs to be YOUR writing.

2. DOs...

- a. ...Proofread your essay. Mention the correct college and have someone else read it over.
- b. ...Hook your reader with a strong opening.
- c. ...Keep it personal. What YOU have done, your career goals and how this college helps you meet your goals.
- d. ...Show, don't tell.
- e. ...Be concise.
- f. ...Narrow your focus and stay on topic.

3. DON'Ts...

- a. Don't be too formal.
- b. Don't be too casual, use slang or jargon.
- c. Don't give your biography but focus on an important moment.
- d. Don't bore the reader.
- e. Don't write a resume.
- f. Don't write about things that are already on your application.
- g. Don't assume anything about the reader.
- h. Don't offend or flatter the reader.
- i. Don't use cliches or quotes.

4. TOP 10 TIPS

- a. Be Concise
- b. Be Honest
- c. Be an Individual
- d. Be Coherent
- e. Be Accurate
- f. Be Vivid
- g. Be Likable
- h. Use humor wisely
- i. Be Smart
- j. Be Enjoyable

*ROAR is the Regional Officers of Admission of the Rockies, an organization of college admissions professionals who represent colleges and universities outside the state of Colorado.