



Tips for Writing a Successful AMCAS Essay

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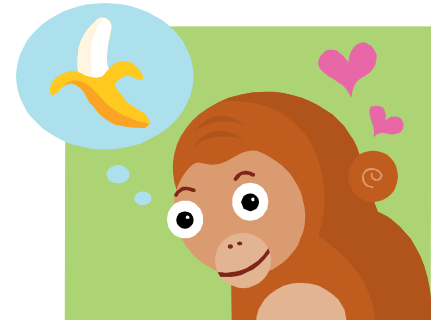
How to write an essay

- Decide on your topic.
- Prepare an outline or diagram of your ideas.
- Write your thesis statement.
- Write the body.
 - Write the main points.
 - Write the subpoints.
 - Elaborate on the subpoints.
- Write the introduction.
- Write the conclusion.
- Add the finishing touches.



Decide on your topic

- Define Your Purpose
 - Persuade
 - Explain
 - Educate
- Brainstorm Subjects of Interest
 - Look around you
 - What occupies your time?
- Evaluate Each Potential Topic
 - Narrow the focus
 - How does it relate to you?
 - What will it tell someone about you?



Prepare an outline or diagram

- From the Topic – list the main points:
 - If you are trying to persuade, you want to write your best arguments.
 - If you are trying to explain a process, you want to write the steps that should be followed.
(group these into categories. try using Beginning, Middle, and End.)
 - If you are trying to inform, you want to write the major categories into which your information can be divided.
- Write the facts or information that support that main idea.



Writing the Essay

- The Beginning:
- Write your thesis statement.
 - Your thesis statement will have two parts.
 - The first part states the topic.
 - Kenya's Culture
 - Building a Model Train Set
 - Public Transportation
 - The second part states the point of the essay.
 - has a rich and varied history
 - takes time and patience
 - can solve some of our city's most persistent and pressing problems
 - Or in the second part you could simply list the three main ideas you will discuss.
 - has a long history, blends traditions from several other cultures, and provides a rich heritage.
 - requires an investment in time, patience, and materials.
 - helps with traffic congestion, resource management, and the city budget.



Writing the Essay

- The Middle:

- Write the body.

- Write the main points.
- Write the subpoints.
- Elaborate on the subpoints.



Writing the Essay

- The Ending:

- Write the introduction.

- Begin with an attention grabber.

- Anecdote
 - Dialogue
 - Summary Information

- Finish the paragraph with your thesis statement.

- Write the conclusion.

- The conclusion brings closure to the reader, summing up your points or providing a final perspective on your topic.



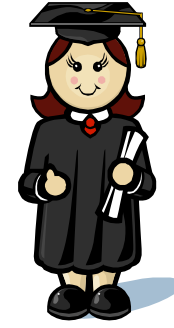
Add the finishing touches

- Check the order of your paragraphs.
- Check your writing.
 - Does it make logical sense?
 - Do the sentences flow smoothly from one another?
 - Have you run a spell checker or a grammar checker?
- Put it down and walk away for a couple hours, then re-read the essay.



What does the Admissions Committee Look for?

- Writing style:
 - Does it flow?
 - Is it interesting?
 - What does the essay say about the student?
- Grammar:
 - Is it correct? Run a Spell and Grammar check
 - No run on sentences
 - No fragmented sentences



Good Essays

- The Runner
- The Non-Traditional Applicant
- The Story Teller
- The Traveler



Bad Essays

- Do Not Write Like This

