

Common App Essay Topics THAT ROCK!

(STAND OUT AND AVOID THE BASIC)

You want a stellar common app essay? Stay tuned for uncommon tips to make a splash. Thank you for joining me on my channel for the best college essay advice. Stay tuned, subscribe and hit the bell. From chocolate chip cookies to odd numbers to learning how to drive, honestly, the topic of your essay is secondary to how you share who you are, how you think, and how you approach growth. Instead of selling you topics that may or may not fit your story, your truth, I'm going to share expert tips on how to structure your story so that it works for you. Hi, I'm Dr. Josie with Write Your Acceptance. With hundreds of students in college or graduates, by now I know what they're looking for and now it's your turn. Stay tuned. Tip one, for an amazing common app essay, build a narrative frame. For instance, if you're going to [writing an essay](#) about archery, how you learned the sport, how you love it, and you grew in confidence with it, maybe you start with kind of narrating a scene from the Hunger games, and then you kind of build in your story in the middle. Then at the end, you come back to that scene with Hunger Games, but then you kind of talk about how you connect better with Brave and why there's a connection there, gendered politics about women, girls, what they can, cannot do, especially in sports. Or, let's say you are writing about tennis. So your narrative frame could be you bouncing the ball a little close to the line in a tournament. Then you kind of build out what you're going to talk about in the middle and then at the end, you narrate whether or not that ball was out, where you are on the tournament, you win, you lose, because it's so much bigger than just that one experience with that one sport. Kind of build that narrative frame where at the beginning and the end, those bookends are telling a mini story. Then the middle part is the crux of your story. Tip two, forget the convention of an essay altogether. Maybe you are writing about your role in a band and how you grew to love music and self expression, and instead of the typical three, four, five paragraph essay, you are writing dates of concerts or gigs, the good, the bad, the ugly, so seven random experiences, but those random experiences where you are narrating your gigs, your growth in music will then be connected at the end with a typical paragraph. Or, another example. Let's say you are writing about how you grew out of a shy awkward stage and you're narrating that with your three or four different eyeglasses that you've had in the last 10 years, 13 years. You are kind of starting with your description of your prescription, the description of the glasses, and then you narrate where you are in that moment as a preteen in high school or whatever. You are forgetting this typical structure that you look at when you see an academic essay and you're completely bringing in different sub topics or subheadings that really can help narrate a different thread, a different dimension in the essay. Are you stuck on how to structure your essay? Comment below. I'd to help. Tip three, bring in other voices. Maybe you don't want to be too brave and dismantle the entire essay structure, but you can bring in pop song lyrics, movie lines. You can bring in quotes, but red flags everywhere of caution. Okay? Make sure it is not a cliched line, like, "Be the change you want to see in the world." Make sure that the quote that you pick, whether from a movie, song, public intellectual, history, whatever it is, that you can connect it culturally or personally to your life. Maybe it's two or three lines of a French song. Your mom is half French. You've struggled to learn the language throughout the last four years of high school, but you start with that song lyric. You go into the artist's journey of struggle of it took so long to get famous, let's say. Then you parallel that about you learning French, as well as negotiating your half French identity, right? Think about bringing in other voices, but definitely connected to who you are and how you are growing. If you want expert tips on how to structure your essay and bring in diversity no matter what, check out my free college essay download in the description below. If you liked this video, please give us a like, comment below, helpful comment below, "Hello", and I will say, "Hi", back and please, please, if you found this helpful, do share with your college bound friends.