

Dos and Don'ts

Before we really get to writing, here is a list of things to make sure you do and things to make sure you don't do. Keep these in mind as you write and edit all of your essays.

Do

- Be yourself.
- Highlight your strengths.
- Stay positive.
- Show a little creativity.
- Be honest.
- Care about your topic.
- Have a consistent and solid message.
- Be specific.
- Say something that is unexpected.
- Make it believable.
- Describe things.
- Think before writing.
- Edit carefully.
- Be confident.

Don't

- Explain away bad grades or test scores.
- Lie.
- Show off.
- Be general.
- Be boring.
- Plagiarize anyone else's essay.
- Forget to answer the question.
- Try to describe everything about yourself.
- Use a famous quotation that isn't part of a prompt.
- Write what you think the admissions committee wants to hear.