



FIND THE  
**RIGHT** COLLEGE

# Essay Writing Guide

3 Simple Steps for Writing  
Your College Essay

COPYRIGHT FIND THE RIGHT COLLEGE

### 3 SIMPLE STEPS FOR WRITING YOUR COLLEGE ESSAY

#### 1) BRAINSTORM

Take each prompt or question given to you and think of possible answers for each. Then, think about or talk about with friends or family your ideas. Often, a theme will jump out - that's good! Use that theme and never look back. Sometimes, you will have two topics you can't choose between, and that's okay. Hold onto both ideas for now.

#### 2) FREEWRITING

Freewriting means writing with a timer on, writing full sentences, and just letting all thoughts come out. You should write as if you are telling the story to a trusted adult or writing in a journal or on a blog for now. Use first person ("I") and don't describe what happened or your topic, but be sure to reflect on it as well (How did you feel? What did you learn? How has it changed you?). Do a 15-minute freewrite on any of the topics that you like – just set a timer, and write on each question. After the freewriting, ask yourself – does this subject help the admissions office get to know me better? Once you have chosen your topic, do an additional 20-30 minute freewrite to get more thoughts on paper.

## 3 SIMPLE STEPS FOR WRITING YOUR COLLEGE ESSAY

### 3) EDIT AND TRIM

Once you have a lot of writing down, review your writing and start to edit and trim. You might be able to skip some of your early freewriting and find a good starting place or introduction after your thoughts had warmed up. You might need to write an introduction but then use a lot of what you already wrote. The most difficult part is understanding what you want to write and getting that on paper. Once you have that, just focus on good writing and adhering to the length of the essay. This is a great time to call on a trusted teacher or adult who might help you if you are having difficulty with the editing or trimming.

Now you know everything you need to know to get started on a great college essay. This method is a well-proven strategy for producing great essays. Setting aside time and getting started is key, so don't procrastinate.