

College Application Essay Outline

[Your Name]
[Personal Info]
[Date]

[College Name]
[College Address]
[City, State, ZIP]

Dear [Admissions Committee],

[Essay Title]

Introduction:

- Hook: open with a specific scene or moment that puts the reader somewhere concrete.
- Introduce the experience or idea the essay will explore — no thesis, no definition.
- End the opening with a sentence that makes the reader want to know what happens next.

Body Paragraph 1 — Your Story:

- Describe the central event, challenge, or experience in specific detail.
- Show what happened rather than summarising it — the reader should be able to picture it.
- Include the moment of shift: when your thinking or understanding changed.

Body Paragraph 2 — Reflection and Growth:

- Explain what you learned or how your perspective changed because of this experience.
- Connect the experience to a value, habit, or way of seeing the world you carry forward.
- Keep the reflection grounded in the story — avoid broad, general lessons.

Body Paragraph 3 — Skills and Interests:

- Show how a specific skill, interest, or ability is connected to what you described above.
- Demonstrate it through the story rather than stating it as a trait you possess.
- Link it naturally to where you are headed and what you want to pursue.

Conclusion:

- Show where you are now because of this experience — not a lesson, a specific observation.
- Connect to who you will be at [College Name] without stating it as a life motto.
- End on a specific image, detail, or forward-looking line that stays with the reader.

Thank you for considering my application.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]