



DIGITAL

# THE GREAT COLLEGE ESSAY PROJECT

Write Your Way In Lesson

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# Why Are We Here?

We're here to help you write a great first draft of an essay to go along with your college or scholarship applications.

- **The essay needs to be compelling.** There are many students applying to college, and you want to stand out.
- **The essay needs to be focused.** You have a limited number of words (between 250-650 for Common App prompts) to tell your story.
- **The essay needs to be well-written.** A well-written essay can give the impression that you will be a good student.

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# Student Interviews



Get ready to write about yourself by answering some questions about you!

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# Part One: Start With a Story



A story is a great way for you to connect and engage with the reader.

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# Kelly's Story

Read the intro of Kelly's essay. What did you notice?

- Where does Kelly get our attention?
- Where does she paint a clear picture of who she is?
- How does she make us feel?

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# Part One: Start With a Story

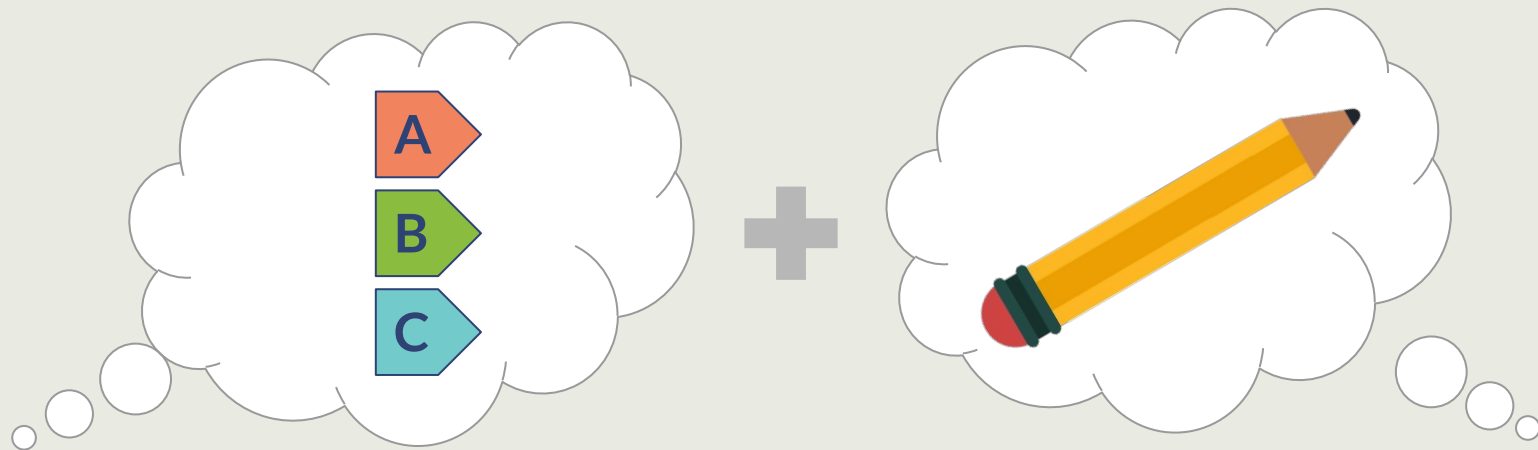
People love a good story! Great stories are interesting. Admissions counselors read hundreds of essays. You need to grab their attention quickly.

We want to:

- Tell the story of ONE interesting and important moment.
- Write in ways that gets the reader to picture what was happening, using descriptions, dialogue, action, and thinking

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# Pick Your Prompt and Story



Pick a story that would go well with the prompt you choose. Refer to your interview, and ask if you need help to make your selection.

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# Part Two: Making It Fit



The story alone does not meet the requirements of the essay. We must show why the story fits into the prompt, and also answer the prompt.



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# Kelly's Essay

Read the middle part of Kelly's essay. What did you notice?

- Identify where in the middle portion of the essay Kelly clearly connects the story to the prompt.
- What words, transitions, or other devices does Kelly use to connect the dots?

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# Part Two: Make The Story Fit the Prompt

Move into the second part of your essay by stating how your story relates to the prompt.

- We want to:
  - Support how the story relates to the prompt with one (or more) reasons
  - Use transitions to help flow from one part of the writing to the other
    - "This is why...."
    - "I share this story because..."
  - Answer the prompt

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# Part Three: I am the Greatest! (wrapping up)



**cristina**   
@mintchocolatina



why do essay conclusions exist, i said what i said scroll up !!!!

174K 12:52 AM - Sep 7, 2019



41.1K people are talking about this



The last words of the essay are just as powerful as the first, and should leave the admissions team feeling like you are special and deserve a spot.

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# Part Three: I am the Greatest! (wrapping up)

"I am the greatest. I said that even before I knew I was. I figured that if I said it enough, I would convince the world that I really was the greatest."  
– Muhammad Ali

"When will they ever have another fighter who writes poems, predicts rounds, beats everybody, makes people laugh, makes people cry, and is as tall and extra pretty as me? In the history of the world and from the beginning of time, there's never been another fighter like me. Eat your words! Eat your words! I am the greatest."

- Muhammad Ali

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# Kelly's Essay

Read the conclusion of Kelly's essay. What did you notice?

- What is revealed about this student?
- How does the ending connect to her purpose for writing/prompt?
- What words or phrases are used for a powerful effect?

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# Part Three: I am the Greatest! (wrapping up)

This is your final chance to say why you're the greatest.

The last words of the essay are just as powerful as the first, and should leave the admissions team feeling like you deserve a spot.

*We can:*

- State the wonderful things you plan to do in college, and after
- Include those interesting adjectives about yourself from your interview
- Say, "You should select me because..."

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# Sharing

Select 1-3 sentences from your essay you'd like to share with the group.  
A few things to share include:

- Something that surprised you when writing
- A challenge you worked around (or are still struggling with)
- A favorite line from your essay
- Something you want to focus on during revision

# Congratulations!

