



Application Strategies for Completing High School, College, Graduate School Applications and Essays, as well as Scholarship Essays

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Tackle high school, college, graduate school (including law, business, and medical school) applications and essays as well as scholarship applications with an expert! A professional editor and freelance writer for three decades, I have been working with parents and students for 10+ years as they embark on the application process. I mentor students, guiding their writing process so that they craft well-composed, grammatically correct, and dazzlingly distinct essays while keeping stress at bay.

Except for the admission interview, the essays are a school's only way to garner personal insight about your student; all other submitted materials are grades, scores, portfolios, and the opinions of others. Student essays allow your student to shine. Ideally, your student should craft compelling and unique essays with style and content that is absolutely memorable to college admission officers.

Full-Service Application Strategy

The full-service application strategy is designed to encourage a trusting rapport between a student and me.

- Interview student and family in person or via Zoom

It's important for me to connect with each student and understand a bit about his/her/their life and aspirations. Knowing students makes brainstorming ideas much easier and produces more honestly conceived essays. The initial student interview often takes two hours; some students have more activities than others and will require a longer interview to assess their complete set of assets.

- Familiarize each student with their chosen schools and the associated applications

There are numerous applications to be filled out, one for each school. Students need some time to acclimate to each application and its requirements, although their learning curve is often speedy as the fall semester proceeds. I offer an in-depth introduction to the primary applications' format, content, deadlines, scholarships, and peculiarities.

- Identify optimal essay topics for each student and school individually

Often, students don't know how best to answer writing prompts, or they become intimidated by the process. Your student and I collaborate to brainstorm the most riveting and compelling topics for long essay prompts as well as short-answer questions and rapid-fire questions. We consider how to align essays to your student's chosen schools so that students are always writing to their specific audience. Students then work on rough drafts on their own while I remain available for questions, strategic prompting, and insights.

- Strategize application schedule with student

I arrange a writing schedule for your student according to his, her, or their chosen schools' deadlines as well as his, her, or their ease with the application-writing process. Some students need more rigorous oversight than others. We consider Early Decision and Early Action options for admission. I exert and maintain the pressure needed to keep your student on track, removing as much stress as I can from your family dynamic.

- Arrange writing and editing session(s)

I schedule online editorial sessions with your student to guide them to perfect their approach, sharpen their content, and edit their grammar/syntax. Each session strives to finish a longer essay or a smaller series of essays for an individual school or consortium of associated schools. Sessions are scheduled for two hours,

but fees are prorated to reflect the actual time used. The more schools to which a student applies, the more sessions a student might need. The more essays an individual school requires, the more sessions a student might need. The larger personal essays of the Common Application and the Coalition Application almost always require multiple sessions.

I cater to each student, working at the times that make him, her, or them feel most comfortable. I mentor online in virtual sessions via Zoom, mentoring applicants across the US as well as international students. The goal is to reduce each student's stress *as well as* the family's stress. Every time a session ends, one more application or lengthy essay is usually complete, whether a student is applying to one school or twenty-seven (and I've worked with students at both these exact extremes).

I charge \$90/hour for the full-service application strategy.

Proofreading Application Strategy

I also offer an application proofreading service as a support for students.

- Proofread student essays and provide editorial feedback

A student can forward his, her, or their proposed essays to me online as Word documents. I proofread and offer edits and marginal comments in a timely manner.

- Remain accessible to students for the duration of the application process

Whenever a student feels the need to reach out regarding his, her, or their writing, I will do my utmost to assist.

This strategy doesn't afford me as much of a personal connection with a student as the Full-Service Application Strategy, but your student is assured of sending polished application materials to schools.

I charge \$75/hour for the Proofreading Application Strategy.