

## AP English 12

### College Application Essay Prewriting Activity

After reading the sample college application essays in your packet “The Question of the Essay,” choose two to analyze in some depth. In your analysis of the writing, focus not on general statements about its effective qualities; instead, refer specifically to the details of the text that reveal its strength and explain how.

#### Stimulating Ideas

Discuss ways that the personal writing

- focuses on a specific experience or event.
- presents an engaging picture of the action and people involved.
- contains specific details and dialogue.
- makes readers want to know what happens next.

#### Logical Organization

Discuss ways that the personal writing

- includes a clear beginning that pulls readers into the essay.
- presents ideas in an clearly connected manner.
- uses transitions to link sentence and paragraphs.
- provides a conclusion that suggests significance of event.

#### Engaging Voice

Discuss ways that the personal writing

- speaks knowledgeably, enthusiastically, or poignantly.
- shows that the writer is truly interested in the subject.
- reveals the writer’s unique personality.

#### Original Word Choice

Discuss ways that the personal writing

- contains specific nouns that clearly describe entities.
- contains vivid verbs that portray action.
- contains colorful modifiers that convey clear information about nouns.

#### Effective Sentence Structure

Discuss ways that the sentences in the personal writing

- connect smoothly from one idea to the next.
- show variation in sentence structure (simple, compound, and complex sentences).
- show variation in sentence length.

#### Conventions

Discuss ways that the sentences in the personal writing

- adhere to the basic rules of writing.
- Follow grammar guidelines.

*Using the college application essay samples as a guide, begin drafting your own personal narrative in response to one of the topics. Incorporate elements in your own writing that you admire in the sample essays.*