



How To Be The Hero Of Your College Essay

Everybody needs a hero, especially admissions officers. Your job is to write an essay that gets them rooting for you. These steps can help guide you.

How are you a hero? Did you overcome adversity? Or do you embody a specific virtue?

Narrow your focus by googling “core values” and choosing a handful that fit.

Ask your friends and relatives for stories about you. Is there one that exemplifies a core value?

Once you land on the story you want to tell, write an elevator pitch, which is a one or two sentence summary of what you want to say in your essay.

First draft frenzy! Write your essay as fast as you can. Don't worry about length or punctuation.

Rewrite your essay one million times. Ok, not a million, but a lot. Like ten. Make sure to start strong, with an opening line that grabs the reader's attention. And don't be afraid to show some vulnerability.

Check the Common App prompts and pick the one that fits. Tweak your essay if necessary.

Get a few smart, thoughtful readers to give you feedback. Fix the typos and incorporate the comments that will help make your essay stronger.

And...that's it! Your college essay is finished! Give yourself a pat on the back and bask in the glow of a job well done.

Need more help?



If you're a high school student applying to college, it's probably the most stressful time of your life. It's not an easy time for parents, either. We can help.

We're professional writers turned essay coaches who help college-bound students craft standout admission essays, while taking some of the anxiety out of the process.



Cheryl Klam

A New York Times best-selling novelist, Cheryl has published 12 books, including young adult, science fiction, thrillers, and romances, selling nearly a million copies worldwide. Her young adult novel "The Pretty One" has sold nearly forty thousand copies and her books have been optioned for movies multiple times. You can email her at cheryl@theessayists.com.



Brian Klam

Brian has TV shows optioned in Hollywood, written for Nat Geo TV, been published in an anthology of well-known authors for Norton Press, and won every creative award the advertising industry has to offer, including Clios and London Internationals. He has an MA in Creative Writing from Hollins College. Email him at brian@theessayists.com or call **646-823-6340**.