

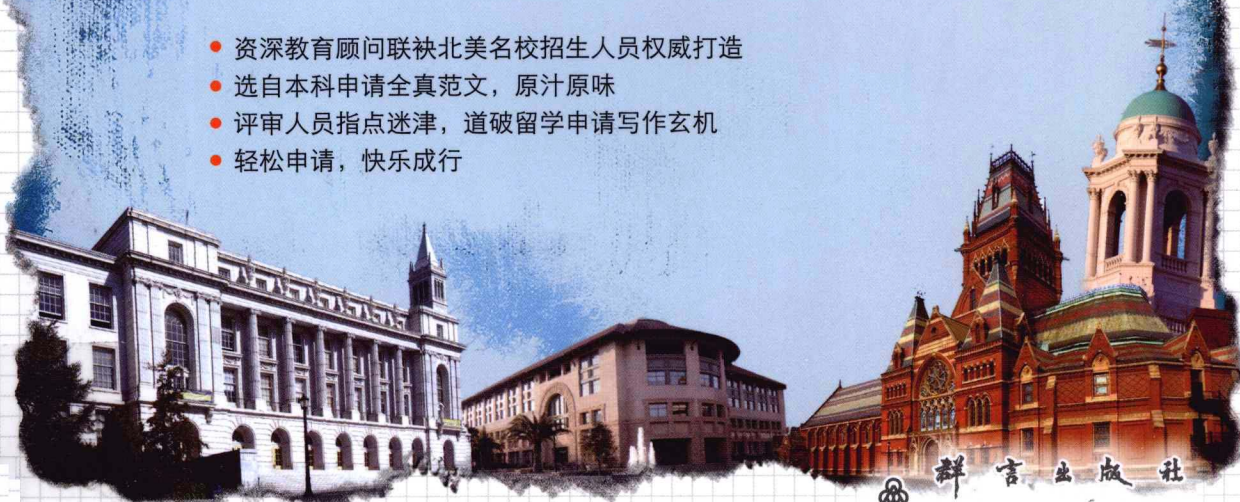
BARRON'S  
Essays That Will Get You  
Into College

北美名校本科  
留学申请

写作指导及范文

Adrienne Dowhan / Chris Dowhan / Dan Kaufman © 编著

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# 北美名校本科 留学申请 写作指导及范文

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滕雄 © 译

## 图书在版编目(CIP)数据

北美名校本科留学申请写作指导及范文 / (美)道汉  
(Dowhan, A.), (美)道汉(Dowhan, C.), (美)考夫曼  
(Kaufman, D.)编著; 滕雄译. —北京: 群言出版社,  
2010. 12

ISBN 978-7-80256-198-4

I. ①北… II. ①道…②道…③考…④滕… III.  
①留学生教育—申请—英语—应用文—写作—北美洲  
IV. ①H315

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2010)第 219996 号

版权登记: 图字 01—2009—0779

ESSAYS THAT WILL GET YOU INTO COLLEGE BY DAN KAUFMAN,  
CHRIS DOWHAN AND ADRIENNE DOWHAN

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through BIG APPLE TUTTLE-MORI AGENCY, LABUAN, MALAYSIA.  
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## 北美名校本科留学申请写作指导及范文

ESSAYS THAT WILL GET YOU INTO COLLEGE

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出版人 范 芳  
责任编辑 钱智超  
封面设计 贾臻臻  
出版发行 群言出版社(Qunyan Press)  
地 址 北京东城区东厂胡同北巷 1 号  
邮政编码 100006  
网 站 www.qypublish.com  
读者信箱 bj62605588@163.com  
总 编 办 010—65265404 65138815  
编 辑 部 010—65276609 65262436  
发 行 部 010—62605588 62605019


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经 销 新华书店  
读者服务 010—65220236 65265404 65263345  
法律顾问 中济律师事务所  
印 刷 北京盛兰兄弟印刷装订有限公司

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版 次 2010 年 12 月第 1 版 2010 年 12 月第 1 次印刷  
开 本 787mm×1092mm 1/16  
印 张 17.25  
字 数 305 千  
书 号 ISBN 978-7-80256-198-4  
定 价 35.00 元

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谢 琴 窦中川

## Acknowledgments

**T**he authors of this book are all part of an Internet-based company called IvyEssays. Since its creation in 1996, IvyEssays' goal has been to help students gain admission to leading colleges and graduate schools by providing them with a variety of resources. These include examples of previously successful essays and professional editing services. We are extremely happy to be working with Barron's on this book series, which will put our extensive information and advice into print for university applicants.

We owe our sincere thanks to two groups of people. First, we thank all of the students who have permitted us to publish their admissions essays so that they might help illuminate the way for future rounds of hopeful applicants. Second, we thank the team of IvyEssays contributors, made up of past and present admissions officers and professional writers who together have logged over 50 years of admissions experience. This series would not have been possible without the assistance of those listed below:

**Thomas Vance Sturgeon** has over eight years of experience in the admissions process as Associate Director of Admission at Duke University and Assistant Director of Admission at Guilford College. Mr. Sturgeon is currently the Director of Admissions and College Placement at the South Carolina School for Science and Mathematics. Today, Mr. Sturgeon is a widely published author and lecturer on the subject of college admissions. He has been quoted in *Money Magazine's Guide to Colleges* and published in the *Journal of College Admissions*.

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**Amy Yerkes** was an Instructor at the University of Maryland School of Medicine where she taught a course designed to increase the writing skills of prospective medical students for the Office of Minority Student Affairs. She has also taught at the University of Pennsylvania and is currently Assistant to the Dean at Johns Hopkins University School of Continuing Studies and a Lecturer at Western Maryland College.

**IvyEssays** was founded based on the belief that some people have far more access than others to the resources and information that improve one's odds of getting into the top schools. While admissions officers do their best to take these disparities into account, students must equip themselves for the application process to the best of their abilities. IvyEssays hopes that its services can help level the admissions playing field by providing resources that might otherwise be available to only the more privileged. Good luck and good writing!

## Introduction

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### *The Competition*

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Unfortunately for today's applicants, getting into college has grown more competitive than ever. As the sons and daughters of the baby boomers graduate from high school and set their sights on a higher education, the nation's colleges and universities are becoming flooded with applications. Most admissions committees are seeing their highest number of applications ever. Schools that were not considered very selective a couple of years ago are now turning

away highly qualified applicants because they simply do not have the space to accommodate them. Grades and S.A.T. scores are important. However, with so many qualified applicants now vying for a limited number of spots, they need a way to set themselves apart from the masses. The good news is that they DO have a way to sell themselves to the admissions committee. That opportunity lies in the essay.

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### *The Essays—Why All the Fuss?*

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How would you feel if getting into the school of your choice had nothing to do with your grades and your test scores? What if your accomplishments and class rank were irrelevant to the admissions process? Imagine for a moment that the only thing an admissions committee would ever see is your essay. The committee would have to make a decision that will change the rest of your life based on only one or two double-spaced pages.

Does this make you elated or nervous? A little of both? In any case, this should be your frame of

mind during the writing process. Everything you have done up to now is completed—past tense. You could not change things if you wanted to, so stop worrying. However, even if you have strong test scores and a solid G.P.A., this is not the time to rest on your laurels. The essays lie ahead. Until you have completed them, you should treat the essays like they are the only thing that matters. As one admissions officer stated:

*Students do have a lot of control. They feel it is all in our hands, but what they show us is up to them. They shouldn't underestimate the importance of this.*

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### *Are the Essays Really That Important?*

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The answer is yes! However, do not take our word for it. Listen to an admissions officer.

*While at Duke, I did a study of how well single variables predicted an applicant's chances of admission. Being number one in the class gave an applicant 50–50 chance of getting in. Having a combined S.A.T greater than 1,400 gave the student about a 65 percent chance. Receiving the highest*

*score an admission officer could confer on an essay raised the odds to over 90 percent.*

Think of your essay as the face of your application. An application without an essay is a statistic—just another faceless person in a crowd. One committee member said:

*The application is a lifeless thing—a few sheets of paper and a few numbers. The essay is the best way to breathe life into it.*

## 前言

### 竞争

对今天的申请者而言，进入大学的竞争比以往更为激烈。婴儿潮出生的那一代孩子已经高中毕业，将他们的视线瞄准了高等教育，挤满了全国各大院校。大多数招生委员会从未目睹过如此庞大的申请队伍。几年前还没有什么选择余地的学校现在居然因为没有足够的空间而开始拒绝

优秀的申请者。排名和SAT(学业能力倾向测验)成绩固然重要，但如此众多优秀的申请者都在争取有限的名额，他们需要一种突显自己的方法。好消息就是申请者确实有一种方法向招生委员会推销他们自己。机会就在申请文里。

### 申请文——为何所有人都大惊小怪？

如果排名和考试分数对进入心仪的大学没什么影响，你会有什么感觉？如果你的成绩和班级排名与录取过程毫无关系又会怎样？设想招生委员会唯一看到的东西只是你的申请文。他们将只根据这一两页双倍行距的纸张作出决定，从此改变你的人生。

这会令你感到庆幸还是紧张呢？两者兼具？无论如何，在写作过程中你都应该带着这样的思维框架。到目前为止，你做过的任何事都已经完成

了——成为过去时。就算你想改变什么，也不可能了，所以无需扼腕叹息。然而，就算你的考试分数很高，GPA(成绩平均积分点)也很棒，但现在也不是沾沾自喜的时候。前面还有申请文呢。在完成申请文之前，你必须认真对待申请文，将其当作唯一起作用的东西。正如一位招生人员所说：

学生确实能够掌控很多东西。他们觉得一切都取决于我们，但是他们要向我们展现什么完全取决于他们自己。他们不应低估这一点的重要性。

### 申请文真有那么重要吗？

答案是肯定的！但是，别光听我们说，听听招生人员怎么说：

在杜克大学，我研究了单个变量如何预示着申请者的录取机会。班级排名第一让申请者有一半的录取机会。SAT总分超过1400的申请者录取率为65%。申请文获得招生人员所能给的最高分将把录取率提高到90%以上。

申请文堪称申请表的门面。一份没有申请文的申请表只是个统计结果——人群中另一个毫无个性的人而已。有位招生人员曾说：

申请表是一个没有生命的东西——不过是一张纸和一些数据。申请文是赋予其生命的最佳方式。

An application with a poorly written essay does not give admissions officers the chance to care about you. Use simple psychology: Make them feel that they know you, and it will be harder for them to reject you. Make them know you and like you, and they might accept you despite your weakness in other areas.

Understanding the importance of the essays is a

necessary first step toward perfecting your college application. However, that knowledge alone will not do you much good. In fact, it could even hurt your efforts if it only makes you nervous. So if all of this has you sweating, you can relax now. Taking the process seriously is the first step. We are here to help you get through the rest of them.

---

## *How Will This Book Help?*

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We have developed a powerful program to help you write the most effective essays possible. We give you the tools that you need and couple them with a strategy that works. We will help you understand the goals of your essays, get the words onto paper, and polish them to perfection. Here is a taste of what you will find ahead:

**1. Preparation:** Before you can start writing, you need to understand your audience. (Who are those admissions officers, and what do they want?) You must also understand yourself to gather the material you will use to create colorful essays.

**2. Strategy:** Once you understand what is expected and are armed with plenty of potential material, you will need to develop a strategy. By using examples of essays that have worked in the past, we will help you decide how to focus your essays and how best to present them in light of the questions asked.

**3. The Essay:** When you have chosen a topic and know exactly what you want to say in your essay, you should begin typing. We will help you develop a structure, build powerful paragraphs and sentences, and create attention-grabbing opening lines. When you have presented your ideas in a solid first draft, we will show you how to work it like a piece of clay, writing

and rewriting until your essay is worthy of being the face of your application.

**4. A Graded Essay Section:** Before you can write “accept”able essays, you need to understand exactly what acceptable means to an admissions officer. In this section, we do not tell you what schools want to receive, we show you. This part presents 25 real essays graded and ranked by a panel of admission officers from top schools across the country. We have included all their comments about what made the top ten essays so good and what could have been done to make the average ones even better.

**5. Interview Tips and Advice:** Because the interview holds so much in common with the essays, and because we had a panel of admissions officers ready and willing to give us tips and advice, we decided to turn the tables on our admissions team and interview the interviewers. The information presented here is based on what we learned about making the potentially nerve-shattering experience of interviewing a little easier.

Armed with this step-by-step program, you are sure to produce essays worthy of notice. Remember that your essays are the most important parts of your application right now because you can still control them. With that in mind, it is time to get started.

一份申请表中的申请文如果写得不好，就很难让招生人员对你感兴趣。用点简单的心理学知识：让他们感觉认识你，从而难以拒绝你。要让他们了解你并且喜欢你，这样一来，尽管你有其他方面的不足，他们也会录取你。

了解申请文的重要性是让你的大学申请表尽

善尽美所必需的第一步。但是，仅仅认识到这点并没有太多好处。实际上，如果它只会令你觉得紧张，甚至会影响你的申请结果。因此，如果所有这些让你紧张得满头大汗，现在放松点吧。认真对待申请过程是第一步。我们在此是要帮助你渡过后面的难关。

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## 本书有什么帮助？

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我们开发了一套强大的教程体系，帮助你写出最可能奏效的申请文。我们给你提供所需的工具以及相应的有效策略。我们将帮助你理解申请文所要达到的目标，让你的想法跃然纸上，并将申请文润饰得几近完美。以下是你在本书将学到的内容：

**1. 准备：**在开始写作之前，你必须了解你的读者。（那些招生人员是谁，他们想要什么？）你也必须了解自己，这样才能收集有用的素材，写出精彩的申请文。

**2. 策略：**在了解了招生人员期待什么而且准备了大量有用的素材后，就需要找出一种写作策略。借助于过去取得成功的范文，我们将帮助你如何突出申请文的重点，以及如何针对学校提出的问题写出最优秀的申请文。

**3. 申请文：**当你确定主题，而且明确知道要在申请文中写什么时，就该动笔了。我们将帮助你构思合理的框架，写出有力的段落和句子，打造出引人入胜的开篇段落。当你完成了一篇内容充实并充分表现了自己思想的初稿后，我们将指导你如何把申请文当做黏土那样反复“捏造”，精益求精，直

到它能无愧于“申请表的门面”的美誉。

**4. 评级申请文部分：**在你能够写出“可接受”的申请文之前，你需要准确理解“可接受”对于招生人员意味着什么。在本部分，我们并不是告诉你学校想收到什么样的申请文，而是展示给你看。本部分包括25篇由评审小组进行打分和评级的真实范文，该小组由全国顶尖名校的招生人员组成。我们收录了所有范文的评语，包括什么因素成就了这些十佳范文，以及那些普通的申请文如何能更胜一筹。

**5. 面试技巧和建议：**鉴于面试与申请文有诸多共同之处，而且我们有一组招生人员乐意传授面试技巧和提供建议，我们决定和他们交换角色，对他们进行面试。这部分信息是以我们所知道的如何让可能令人紧张不已的面试经历变得轻松一些的知识为基础的。

有了这套循序渐进的学习体系，你定能写出引人注目的申请文。记住，现在，申请文是申请表中最重要的部分，因为它们仍在你的控制之内。本着这样的认识，让我们开始吧！

## **A Note about Plagiarism**

**Throughout this book, we have emphasized the need for honest, personal application essays. To submit anything else to an admissions team is not only stupid—it's illegal.**

If you do borrow material from other sources, be sure to credit it properly. If you are not careful about this, you may hurt your chances of getting into a particular school. To purposely avoid giving credit where credit is due is to court disaster.

In Chapter 1, an admissions officer is quoted as saying, "After fifteen years of reading hundreds of essays a year, you develop an amazing ability to see straight through the bull." This is also true of detecting plagiarism. Admissions officers do read hundreds of essays every year. In doing so, they have developed a sense of whether or not the author of the essay is being honest. Although it may sound impossible, these admissions officers also tend to remember many of the essays that they read. If it is discovered that you have "borrowed" someone else's essay, you will undoubtedly be denied admission.

You owe it to yourself to be honest, forthright, and sincere.

## 关于抄袭的注意事项

在本书中，我们始终强调诚实的、出于自己之手的申请文的必要性。把其他东西交给招生小组不仅是愚蠢的，而且是违法的！

如果你确实从其他地方引用了资料，一定要恰当地标注。如果忽视了这点，你进入某所大学的几率就会被降低。在应该标注的地方故意不标注甚至会惹上官司。

在第一章，我们引用了一位招生人员的话：“15年来，每年评阅数百篇申请文，已经培养出了惊人的能力，一眼就能看穿把戏。”对于检查抄袭也是如此。招生人员每年的确评阅数百篇申请文，他们形成了一种直觉，能感觉到作者是否诚实。尽管听起来有点不可思议，但这些招生人员往往能记住很多以往读过的申请文。

如果他们发现你“借用”了他人的申请文，毫无疑问，你将被拒绝录取。

一切要归于你自己的诚实、坦白与真诚。

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