

哈佛成功申请文 50篇

{ 英汉对照点评 }

50 SUCCESSFUL HARVARD APPLICATION ESSAYS

第3版

The Harvard Crimson □ 编著

3rd
Edition

太傻留学独家推荐
名校申请成功典范
200万网友的共同选择

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PREFACE

Before reading over prospective work for inclusion in this book, I thought I knew what made a good college application essay. A quality choice would be well written, free of grammatical and spelling mistakes, engaging, and, above all, original. I assumed that because our pool was composed of successful Harvard application essays, all of the material would have these characteristics, and that selecting would be a matter of picking the best from the very good.

For the most part, the essays fulfilled these expectations. They were stylistically sound, well proofread, and enjoyable to read. However, after poring over more and more of the submitted work, patterns began to emerge. Tales of transformative summers spent abroad were a common trope, as were favorite home-cooked meals. By the seventieth essay or so, I could fit every essay into a category of work I had seen before.

But as topical originality faded to the background, execution came to the fore. Some of the essays clearly stood head-and-shoulders above the rest, despite their similar themes. I realized that the key was passion—the writers who cared deeply about their subject matter produced the most memorable material.

As you peruse the essays collected for this edition, I hope that you have a similar epiphany, and understand that they prove that there is nothing approaching a formula for the perfect college essay. What we have compiled in this book is a set of suggestions and remarks about some of the traits that a good essay might include. Our advice is by no means exhaustive. It is a starting point.

My only advice is to write about a topic that interests you,

Preface

whether or not you feel it is original. We read plenty of gimmicky essays that nonetheless succeeded on the strength of the writer's fervor. More often than not, enthusiasm shined through and helped separate the wheat from the chaff.

In closing, keep in mind that the essay, while important, will not make or break your application, so write without fear of failure. Best of luck!

—Maxwell L. Child
President, 136th Guard of *The Harvard Crimson*

序

在阅读候选稿之前，我认为一篇成功的大学申请文应具备以下基本要素：语法和拼写准确无误，文采斐然、引人入胜，鲜明的独创性。我猜想这些从众多哈佛大学的成功申请文中精心挑选出来的文章都应具备上述特点，筛选起来也不过是精中求精。

大多数时候，这些文章经过精心校对，文笔细腻，读起来让人心情舒畅。然而，当我阅读了越来越多的候选稿之后，慢慢发现了一些固定的行文模式。比如类似于某次迥然不同的国外暑期经历，喜爱的家常便饭都是常用的申请文故事。在我读了大约七十篇文章后，基本上能将所读文章分门别类。

当主题相似时，文章的独特性将大打折扣。要使文章脱颖而出，对于题材的处理就变得尤为重要。充满激情的描述，是文章成功的关键——只有那些对自己所选话题有所感悟的作者才能撰写出令人印象深刻的文章。

当你在翻阅此书时，我希望你会跟我有相似的体会：并没有类似于模版这样的东西来帮你完成一篇成功的大学申请文。本书为读者提供了一些建议或评论，以帮助读者领悟到成功的大学申请文应具备的优点。但是，这些建议并非面面俱到，而是希望读者从中有所启发。

给大家一个建议，不论你是否觉得文章的主题具有独创性，都一定要写你自己感兴趣的话题。很多使人感到生动而成功的文章，往往就是得益于作者对自己所选话题的浓厚兴趣。通常，文章中所流露出的那种激情使其出类拔萃。

值得注意的是申请文固然重要，但它并不是决定能否成功申请理想大学的唯一因素，所以当你在写申请文的时候千万不要害怕失败。

最后，祝你好运！

——麦克斯威尔·蔡尔德

《哈佛学生报》第 136 届主席

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I. INTRODUCTION: THE ADMISSIONS ESSAY

Writing a college admissions essay is an admittedly daunting task. Most likely, you have been repeatedly told that these five hundred painstakingly crafted words must complete the intimidating mission of distinguishing yourself from the legions of other college applicants, in order to leave your own personalized mark on the admissions officers. You've probably been reminded that your essay should strike a balance between being compelling and insightful, but not too contrived. You've likely heard varying accounts of how important the admissions essay actually is: from those who swear by their writing and predict that this little essay steered them clear of the rejection pile; to others who humbly say they were probably accepted in spite of their essay. With all the academic and extracurricular work that consumes what spare time you have outside of the application process, it's almost certain that college essays aren't what you'd like to be worrying about on your weekends.

At the same time, the admissions essay can be a boon to your application if approached carefully. Each year, college admissions rates plunge as the number of applicants grows, and the size of résumés and activities lists expands. For applicants to competitive universities and Ivy League schools, having a top grade point average (GPA) along with sporting and musical prowess may not guarantee admission. The personal statement, however, is a blank slate that allows you to share and emphasize the qualities that make you stand out. It permits you to make a creative, distinctive, and even emotional appeal directly to the admissions officers. In a process dominated by test scores and statistics, the admissions essay provides a much-needed human touch. But where do you even start to find ideas for the essay, let alone write?

That's what we're here to help you do: navigate the confusing advice and vague guidance that pervades the current essay-writing process. We've provided you ten tips for writing a standout