

1. College Essay Orientation

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<p>Topic</p> <p>Your topic is general, broad, or possibly distracting to your reader. You may want to focus on a different topic that reveals character traits you want colleges to know about you.</p>	<p>Topic</p> <p>Your topic is workable. The next step is to go deeper, exploring the parts of the story that are unique to your own experience.</p>	<p>Topic</p> <p>Your topic is strong and memorable, and is likely to help you distinguish yourself in the admissions process.</p>
<p>Voice</p> <p>I am having trouble hearing your authentic voice here. Some of your word choices may distract your reader from getting to know you. Tell your story the way you'd share it with a friend or loved one.</p>	<p>Voice</p> <p>I can sometimes hear your authentic spoken voice in this story, but there are times where your voice is getting overshadowed by general comments or descriptions.</p>	<p>Voice</p> <p>I can hear your authentic, spoken voice in this story! You avoid cliches and generalities and describe the world in words that express your unique perspective.</p>
<p>Character</p> <p>I don't feel like I am getting to know you through your story. Share your story in a way that will allow me to see who you are. What do you want readers to know about you? Try to hone in on detailed moments that would reveal character traits you want colleges to know about.</p>	<p>Character</p> <p>I feel like I sometimes get to know you through parts of your story. Your story has places where your character is revealed, but there are times where it would be better to be more specific. Work on including more detailed moments that would reveal the character traits you want colleges to know about.</p>	<p>Character</p> <p>I feel like I am getting to know you from reading your story. Great job telling your story in a way that is authentic to you! Your approach here reveals your character very clearly!</p>
<p>Reasons to Believe</p> <p>I am having trouble seeing how your experiences have shaped who you want to be in college. What are your goals? What are the experiences that have shaped you? Be more specific; show things you've done and learned that show who you'll be in college and what others can count on you for.</p>	<p>Reasons to Believe</p> <p>I am getting an idea of how your experiences have shaped who you want to be in college. However, there is room for you to be more specific! Show things you've done and learned that show who you'll be in college and what others can count on you for.</p>	<p>Reasons to Believe</p> <p>I am seeing how your experiences have shaped who you want to be in college. You tell your story in a way that creates compelling reasons to believe in your future goals. You show us what we can count on you for.</p>

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2. Based in Moments

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<p>Moment-Orientation</p> <p>Your story currently focuses on experiences, rather than moments. Your next step is to choose a few important moments and describe them in greater detail so we can experience everything like we are right there with you!</p>	<p>Moment-Orientation</p> <p>Your story involves at least one vividly described moment, but sometimes your story speaks vaguely about experiences, or skips over moments too quickly without describing them in detail. Your next step is to focus in on some more key moments!</p>	<p>Moment-Orientation</p> <p>Your story is told through a series of vividly described moments that put the reader beside you in the action.</p>
<p>Defining Moment</p> <p>Your Defining Moment is unclear. Your next step is to find a moment when you changed, grew, risked or tried something in a new way!</p>	<p>Defining Moment</p> <p>Your story hints at a moment that was defining for you. Your next step is to make that moment the center of your story and describe it in greater detail.</p>	<p>Defining Moment</p> <p>Your story has a clear Defining Moment that highlights your growth. I can easily identify when you changed, learned something or made a difference here.</p>

3. Story Structure

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<p>Magnet</p> <p>Your story has potential for a stronger first sentence. You want to grab your reader's attention faster. Try having your first sentence do one of the following things: put the reader in action, prompt the reader to ask "what's next?", or set the scene.</p>	<p>Magnet</p> <p>Your story starts off well but there is room to connect with your reader and draw them in faster. Your next step is to do one of the following for your first sentence: put the reader in action, prompt the reader to ask "what's next?", or set the scene.</p>	<p>Magnet</p> <p>Your story connects with the reader and draws them in. Your first sentence has successfully done one of the following things: put the reader in action, prompted the reader to ask "what's next?", or set the scene.</p>
<p>Pivot</p> <p>Your story would be stronger with a turning point or "pivot," a moment with a clear before and after. Work on having a moment in your story that highlights how you have grown. You can do this by: showing one key change, revealing what's different before and after, or taking action.</p>	<p>Pivot</p> <p>Your story shows growth but your pivot could be stronger if you highlight a clear moment where something changes. Take us into a moment when you learned something, grew, or faced a challenge that revealed your character. Your next step is to do one of the following: show one key change, reveal what's different before and after, or take action.</p>	<p>Pivot</p> <p>Your story has a clear moment where something changes. The middle of your story has successfully done one of the following things: showed one key change, revealed what's different before and after, or taken action.</p>

story2

<p>Glow</p> <p>Your story's ending currently trails off, but it has an opportunity to leave your readers wanting to know more. Your last sentence would be stronger if you do one of the following: leave the reader wanting more, keep the reader in action, or close the scene.</p>	<p>Glow</p> <p>There is room to make the end of your story leave us wanting to know more about you. Right now, your story is telling the reader what to think instead of keeping us in the action. Your next step is to do one of the following: leave the reader wanting more, keep the reader in action, or close the scene.</p>	<p>Glow</p> <p>You end your story well! Your last sentence has successfully done at least one of the following things: left the reader wanting more, kept the reader in action, closed the scene. Your ending leaves your reader intrigued!</p>
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4. The 3 Ds: Details, Dialogue, and Description

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<p>3 Ds</p> <p>Your story can use more of the 3 Ds. Ask yourself: What did you hear, see, smell, taste and experience in key moments of your story? Who else was there? What did people say?</p>	<p>3 Ds</p> <p>Your story begins to use details effectively! Your next step is to expand and complete the story with more of the details that will make the story your own, especially in places that sound more general.</p>	<p>3 Ds</p> <p>Well done! Your story uses the 3 D's throughout to reveal your unique experience and perspective. It feels as if we are in your story with you!</p>
<p>Staying in the action</p> <p>Your story would be stronger with moments that are in the real world of action and events. Right now, it takes place mostly in your thoughts and feelings (I thought, I realized, I felt). Explore what happened in the world with other people. What did you do that reveals what you thought or felt? What are actions you took? How would you describe them using the 3Ds.</p>	<p>Staying in the action</p> <p>Your story has times where you are in the world of actions and events. Your next step is to replace sentences that are based in thoughts and feelings with details about what you and others did.</p>	<p>Staying in the action</p> <p>Your story does a great job of keeping the story in the real world of actions and events. Instead of telling us how you felt, you let your actions and words show us!</p>

5. Grammar + Conventions

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<p>Grammar.</p> <p>Your story has areas where the grammar mistakes can take the reader out of the action of your story or confuse them. See notes on how to improve those areas to support you in keeping the reader with you through your whole story!</p>	<p>Grammar</p> <p>Your story follows most standard grammar and conventions. See notes on how to improve small grammar issues.</p>	<p>Grammar.</p> <p>Your story exhibits strong narrative writing, and follows grammar conventions. There are minimal to no grammar mistakes that distract the reader!</p>