

Writing your application essay



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Topics

- Pre-specified
- Why do you want to go into dentistry?
- What makes you special/different?
- What are your goals?
- What experiences/background make you especially prepared?

Specifics

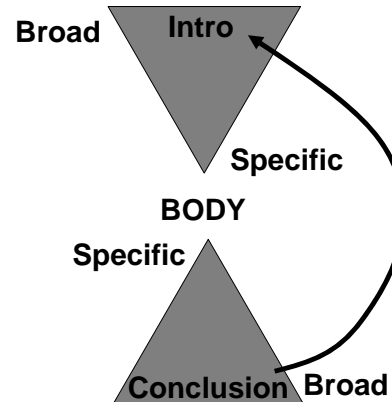
- Provide specific demonstrative examples, not generalizations – **STAND OUT!**
- Use specifics about the program (secondary app only)
- Be honest – don't just say what you think they want to hear – **STAND OUT!**
- Only use info from other application areas you want to highlight/use for illustration
- Be reflective about your experiences

"The body is fascinating and I want to help people"

Essay structure

- Autobiographical (chronological)
- Cause-effect
- Main point – examples

Have 2-3 main points!



Within the body

- Each paragraph: Topic sentence / point
- Transition between paragraphs

How to:

- List things you want the committee to know about you
- Group similar things together
- Pick out 2-3 most important things – these will be your main points
- Specify main points in intro, reinforce in conclusion

Grammar & Style

- Professional – not conversational
- Use 1st person
- Avoid starting every sentence with “I”
- Avoid clichés
- Have others proofread!!

Addressing shortfalls in your app.

- Don't draw attention to negative aspects
- Concise, professional manner – Don't dwell
- Discuss how obstacles have made you grow

Do:

- Pay attention to instructions
- Demonstrate commitment and drive
- Balance depth and breadth
- Be reflective
- Discuss supplemental information
- Write different essays for AADSAS and secondary application and when you reapply

Don't:

- Be dishonest – this will come out in the interview
- Use generalizations
- Ramble or use flowery language to the exclusion of information
- Be disorganized
- Say things that will offend the reader
- Write it at the last minute