

How to Write a Super Awesome BYU ADMISSIONS ESSAY

RWC
Research & Writing Center

Tips from the BYU Research & Writing Center

An admissions essay is your chance to tell the BYU Admissions Committee who you really are! In your own words! Here's a recap of some details and pointers to help you out:



Remember: You'll need to write **FOUR TO FIVE SHORT ESSAYS** as part of your application, each in response to a different prompt.

- Max 1,500 - 2,000 characters each
- That's about 300-400 words, or just over 1/2 page single-spaced
- Last year's prompts can be found online at enrollment.byu.edu

So how do I go about writing my essays?

The Writing Process

Step 1 Brainstorm

Step 2 Outline

Step 3 Write the First Draft *Let it sit a while...*

Step 4 Revise & Revise Some More!

Step 5 Submit the Final Product!

Ask others to look at your work and give you feedback!

Come see an RWC consultant on Zoom during any (or every) stage of this process! We can help!

find us at rwc.byu.edu

Remember:

Under BYU policy, no one else can write any part of your essay for you. But they can give you feedback on how YOU can improve it (in your own words)!

The Admissions Committee: What they're looking for

- **Who you really are.** It's more important to be genuine than to stand out. Don't spend time trying to convince them that you're different from everyone else. Just be you.
- **If BYU's unique academic AND spiritual environment is a good fit for you.** They want to know if your own goals and values align with the Aims of a BYU Education.

What they're not looking for:

- **Perfect writing.** Don't worry about crafting a flawless opening line or getting rid of every tiny grammar error. They care more about the content of your essays.
- **A student who is good at everything.** Again, just be you. No need to convince them you're superhuman.

AIMS OF A BYU EDUCATION

- Spiritually strengthening
- Intellectually enlarging
- Character building
- Leading to life-long learning and service



Other Insider Tips...

Write about something recent.

Exception: If there's an experience so impactful that your story just isn't complete without it, then write about it, even if it's old. But focus on the present: how it's shaping you now, how it helped you become who you are today.

Write about YOU.

Don't go off on a tangent, like "Basketball is a valuable sport because..." or "It is important to help others, even when it is inconvenient." Make sure everything in your essays ties back specifically to YOU and your own experiences.

Be specific. Show, don't tell.

Your essays will be more powerful and convincing if you paint your readers a picture and show them specific examples. Don't just tell them about yourself, show them.

Be clear and explicit

Your readers will only know what you tell them about yourself. Don't assume they can figure out your backstory unless you give enough detail to make it clear.

Let someone else read your essay!

Other people can help you find gaps in your essay that might not make sense to someone who doesn't know you well.

Be sure you address the prompt

Your readers want to make sure you can understand the prompt and follow instructions.

Bring your draft to an RWC consultant -- they can read it with you and help you out!

Avoid repetition across essays

Think of the essays as pieces of the same picture: they all add up together to show your readers who you are. Write about a new aspect of your character, life experience, or personality in each essay.

And finally....



**Avoid the stress!
Start your essays early!!**

Remember:

Your essays are important! Each one will be read **AT LEAST TWICE** by admissions committee readers. Do your best! But also don't sweat!

You've got this!

The RWC is here to help you!

Make a Zoom appointment or just drop in by visiting our website:

rwc.byu.edu

