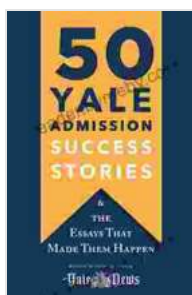
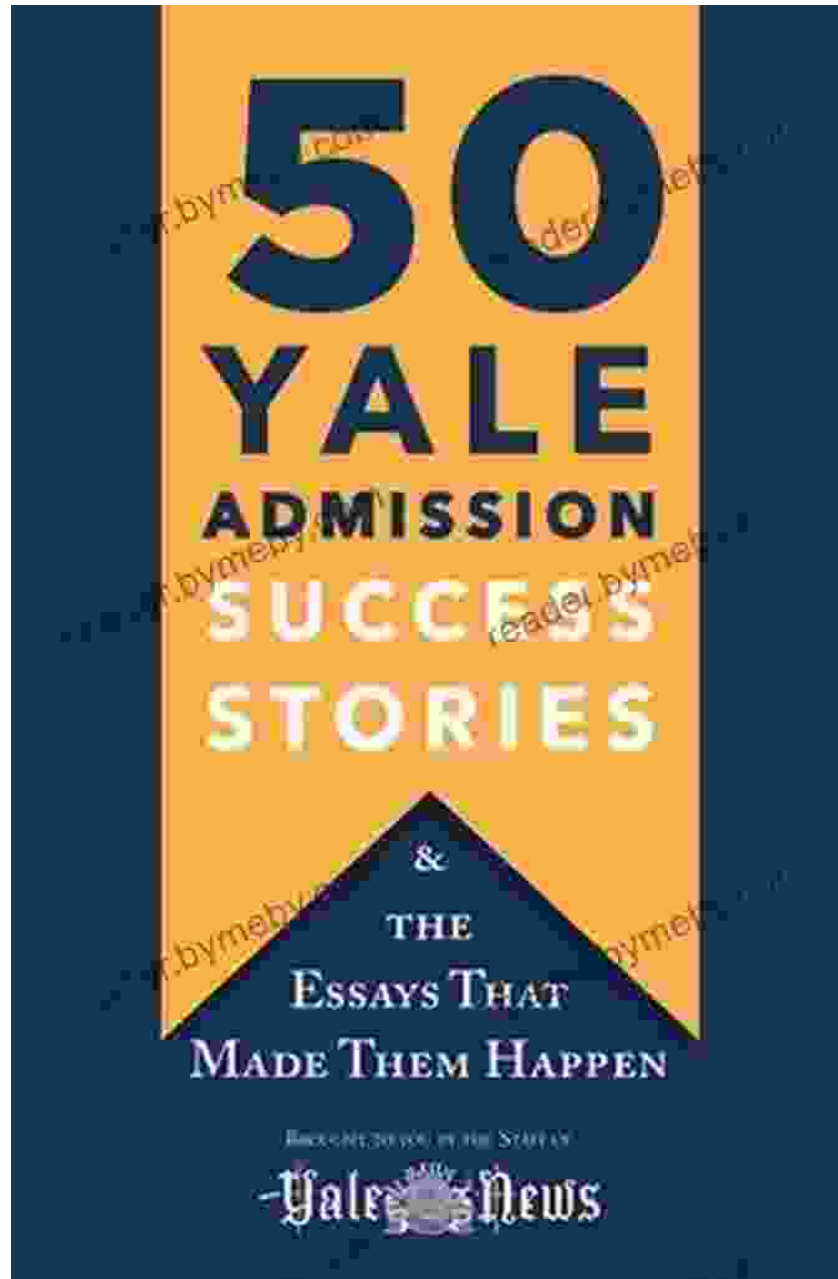


And the Essays That Made Them Happen: Uncover the Secrets of Successful College Applications

College applications can be daunting, but they also represent an incredible opportunity to showcase your abilities and aspirations. The essays you write for your applications can make or break your chances of admission, so it's essential to put your best foot forward.



50 Yale Admission Success Stories: And the Essays That Made Them Happen

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

- Language : English
- File size : 3122 KB
- Text-to-Speech : Enabled
- Screen Reader : Supported
- Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
- Word Wise : Enabled

Print length : 272 pages



In this comprehensive guide, you'll learn:

* How to craft a compelling personal statement * How to choose and write strong supplemental essays * How to avoid common pitfalls in college essay writing * How to use the essay-writing process to reflect on your experiences and goals

Whether you're just starting to think about college applications or you're in the thick of writing your essays, this book has something for you.

Chapter 1: The Personal Statement

The personal statement is the most important essay on your college application. It's your chance to tell the admissions committee who you are, what you're passionate about, and why you're a good fit for their school.

COLLEGE PERSONAL STATEMENT EXAMPLE

Education has always been highly emphasized in my family. As a teacher, my mother showed me the vast worlds that could be opened up to me if I just had a willingness to learn. I loved reading and math, and found science to be fascinating. However, it was during a summer service trip to Guatemala that I realized my true passion was not merely learning, but to be able to inspire others to learn as well. I hope to also become a teacher in the future, and hope that my previous experience will augment the myriad of knowledge and skills during my college training.

When I first arrived in Guatemala, I remember being struck by how different and yet similar everything was. I was well aware of how privileged I was to have grown up in a middle-class family in America, but I had also never seen real poverty. My job had been to teach English to a small class of twelve children aged 4-16. Some nights I remember feeling utterly hopeless because I did not know how to connect with students in such a large age range, with no common experiences. Then my group leader told me to focus on the things that we all did: we all ate, we all laughed, we all wanted to live better lives. I began asking them to share their experiences in Spanish, and slowly they gained the ability to share their stories in English as well. I was glad to have been a part of their lives, and I hope I was able to inspire them to continue sharing their stories and dreaming about the future.

College is but another step in my journey towards becoming an educator. I hope to gain a deeper understanding of different learning styles, as well as effective strategies for communication. Combined with my previous teaching experience, I believe that these experiences will allow me to inspire and guide young minds towards a brighter future. Additionally, college will expand my own horizons, constantly reminding me of my love of learning, and showing me that there is an infinite amount of knowledge still unexplored.

In this chapter, you'll learn:

- * What makes a strong personal statement
- * How to brainstorm ideas for your personal statement
- * How to structure your personal statement
- * How to write a powerful for your personal statement

Questions to ask yourself when drafting your personal statement:

* What experiences have shaped who I am today? * What are my passions and interests? * Why am I interested in attending this particular college? * What are my goals for the future?

Chapter 2: The Supplemental Essays

In addition to the personal statement, most colleges and universities require applicants to write one or more supplemental essays. Supplemental essays allow you to delve deeper into specific aspects of your experience or qualifications.

INFOGRAPHIC

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS ESSAY: SECTIONS

INTRODUCTION

- Create a captivating opener
- Rhetorical question, factual statement, quotation, dialog
- Introduce or restate essay prompt

BODY

- Experiences and Identity
- Body should directly support essay prompt
- Personal challenges
 - How did you overcome?
 - How do past challenges define current outlook?
 - What did you learn about your failures?
- Achievements
 - Who helped you along the way?
 - What did you learn about the nature of success?
- Lessons learned
 - How did experiences inform your major choice?
 - What would you do differently?
- Beliefs
 - Philosophy, politics, religion, etc. But be careful!
- Goals
 - Academic, personal, professional goals
 - How will attending the university help you achieve your goals?



In this chapter, you'll learn:

- * How to choose which supplemental essays to write
- * How to write effective supplemental essays
- * How to avoid common pitfalls in supplemental essay writing

Questions to ask yourself when drafting your supplemental essays:

* What unique experiences or qualities do I have that would make me a good fit for this college? * What are my strengths and weaknesses? * How can I use my supplemental essays to showcase my writing skills? * How can I use my supplemental essays to stand out from other applicants?

Chapter 3: Common Pitfalls to Avoid

When writing college essays, it's important to avoid common pitfalls that can hurt your chances of admission. In this chapter, you'll learn about the most common pitfalls to avoid and how to steer clear of them.

5 WORST ACADEMIC ESSAY WRITING MISTAKES

<https://www.writingacademicwriting.com>

#1 VAGUE THESIS STATEMENT

A vague thesis statement that makes a claim without describing how/why it is valid. Example: High school students should need to complete three months of community service.

#2 NOT ENOUGH EVIDENCE /FACTS

Sometimes this is because there isn't any evidence. You have chosen a topic that doesn't have a lot of facts to support it. Other times it's because you've focused more on ideas and opinion and not the evidence.

#3 LACK OF ORIGINAL IDEAS

This mistake happens when people present facts but fail to explain how or why they demonstrate a point. They don't interpret the facts and think critically about them.

#4 LONG & CONFUSING SENTENCES

This mistake is where your sentences contain too many phrases so that it's hard to follow your point. Often this happens because people use too many words that aren't necessary to the meaning of a sentence.

#5 NOT REVISING & EDITING THE ESSAY

There are spelling, grammar, and punctuation mistakes. Sometimes the essay's content is weak and disorganized. There might also be issues with writing clarity. Check out the blog post and learn how to avoid these writing mistakes!

Some common pitfalls to avoid:

- Writing about topics that are overdone or clichéd
- Using vague or generic language
- Making spelling or grammar errors
- Not proofreading your essays carefully

- Submitting essays that are too long or too short

Chapter 4: The Essay-Writing Process as a Journey of Self-Reflection

The essay-writing process can be a valuable opportunity for self-reflection. By taking the time to think about your experiences and goals, you can gain a deeper understanding of yourself.

YOUR
DICTIONARY

Reflective Essay Example

My Little Brother

In my short life, there are many experiences that could qualify as life-changing. Every new experience was, at one time or another, the first experience. For good or bad, each instance changed the course that my life has taken. But, the most transformative experience was the birth of my youngest brother.

Joel is someone my parents often call a happy accident. At the time that my mother became pregnant, I was 13, and my other brother, Jake, was 10. We were what you would call a well-rounded, perfect family of four. We neatly fit into the perfect classification in nearly every way. We didn't realize what we were missing until the moment that my youngest brother first opened his striking blue eyes.

In truth, I resented the fact that I would be having another sibling. Nothing needed to be added to our family, and my mother, already 35 at the time, was considered high risk because of her age. The pregnancy itself was full of complications that sent the straight course of my life into rollercoaster-like loops that my 13-year-old mind had a hard time comprehending. But now, I can see how forging through those loops helped me to roll with the punches that life inevitably brings.

The day Joel was born, my mother took me with her to the hospital rather than my father. It wasn't a planned move, but Jake and my father were both feverish. I was the next best alternative. Sitting with her through every contraction, I gained a new respect for just how powerful and strong a woman could be in what might be considered their weakest moment. Holding her hand and feeding her ice chips, I gained a connection with my mother that I didn't realize we were lacking.

The moment my new baby brother came into this world, I realized two things nearly simultaneously. First, you don't realize how much you need something until it's sitting in your lap. Second, my life after this moment would never be the same. The moment he curled his chubby little finger around mine, I understood the words "happy accident" completely.

There are many different experiences in life that have changed a part of me as a person. But, nothing so profoundly changed my views and outlook on life like the birth of my youngest brother. Joel's arrival was a life-altering event that caused me to see the world through new eyes.

In this chapter, you'll learn:

- * How to use the essay-writing process to reflect on your experiences
- * How to set goals for your future
- * How to stay motivated throughout the essay-writing process
- * How to take care of your mental health during the essay-writing process

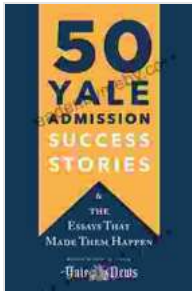
Questions to ask yourself throughout the essay-writing process:

- * What are my strengths and weaknesses?
- * What are my goals for the future?
- * What are my core values?
- * What kind of person do I want to be?

Writing college essays can be a daunting task, but it's also an important opportunity to showcase your abilities and aspirations. By following the advice in this guide, you can write essays that will make you stand out from the competition and increase your chances of admission to your dream school.



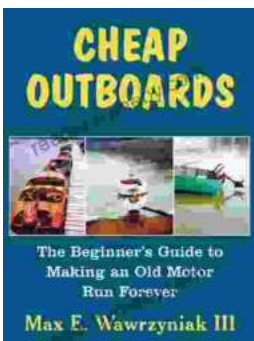
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