

COLLEGE BANTER

The College Review

Susan Henschel

Attention High School Parents

You scream, I scream, we all scream for essays. Well that's not exactly how the old saying goes. It is an updated version. As it is what colleges and scholarship committees are screaming. The essay is the single item that can win your child admission to the school of their dreams and give you the money to make it happen it is the essay.

Colleges are looking at applicants that can be successful in their programs. They use qualifying points such as GPA and test scores. Many students may be in the same bracket when it comes to the point system. This is where the college essay makes the difference. The essay will be the final qualifying point, or to say, the winning point.

Top colleges across the country can tell you stories of students who were lacking in GPA and test scores but wrote an amazing essay. You might remember "Legally Blond" the movie. Elle is the main character and she decides to apply to Harvard Law School. Her GPA was average and she did well on her tests. Elle knew that her essay would be the deciding factor in her admission process. She dazzled them with an essay that was unique among the many. She did realize a dream, as your student may have a dream of acceptance into the school of their choice. Though a fictionalized account, the basis of the storyline holds truth,

In order for your child to "dazzle" admission with an essay, they need to understand the rules of grammar, word choice, use of sentences, organization and development, thesis and purpose, and overall impression.

The essay won't shine, stand out in the crowd, without these.

Many students need extra help. Students entering the 11th grade need you assess their writing skills. Junior year is the time to be taking the SAT and ACT tests. The College board, the makers of the SAT, indicate that students need to review grammar and develop writing skills. Depending on an individual student's ability, extra writing classes could or should be mandatory, learning the effective art of writing.

The New SAT requires writing skills. The Act has an optional writing section. Let's not forget these tests represent admission and money for college.

Time is of the essence for most students. With school commitments and sports it sometimes seems impossible to fit more into an already overloaded schedule. I know most students take a summer job, but take the time to acquire good writing skills. It will. Excuse my pun, pay off in the long run.

The College Review, Susan Henschel
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