

# College Essay - Feedback Based on Rubric

Author: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewer: \_\_\_\_\_

Place a check next to the qualities that are present in each category

<p><b>Truth and weight</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Personally meaningful</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Personally revealing</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Relatable topic</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Not overly clever</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Avoids bragging</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Avoids preaching</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Topic doesn't overshadow the person</p>	<p><i>Ways to strengthen:</i></p>
<p><b>Organization</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Engaging hook</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Clear thesis statement</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Main point is clear</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Smooth transitions</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Clear topic sentences</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Clear summary statement</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Beginning/end tie together</p>	<p><i>Ways to strengthen:</i></p>
<p><b>Vivid description</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Visual details</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Sound details</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Smell, taste, touch details</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Strong character details</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Meaningful dialogue</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Concrete examples</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Memorable images</p>	<p><i>Ways to strengthen:</i></p>

<p><b>Voice</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Tone matches subject</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Distinctive rhythm</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Varied sentence structure</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Strong active verbs</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Specific nouns</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Little or no passive voice</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Free of clichés</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Avoids vague statements</p>	<p><i>Ways to strengthen:</i></p>
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<p><b>Mechanics</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Complete sentences</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Good paragraph breaks</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Commas in the right place</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Correct spelling</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Consistent verb tense</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No extra words or typos</p>	<p><i>Ways to strengthen:</i></p>
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<p><b>Engages audience</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Leaves memorable impression</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Surprises the reader</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Interesting twists</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Unique situation or event</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Strong dramatic question</p>	<p><i>Ways to strengthen:</i></p>
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<p><b>Connection to institution</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> States why a good fit</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Shows knowledge of campus</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Value added to campus clear</p>	<p><i>Ways to strengthen:</i></p>
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Put an arrow (→) next to the points you think are most important for the author to pay attention to strengthen this essay.

# College Essay - Feedback Based on Rubric

*Pick three questions to ask your reviewers from the list below or devise your own.*

## Truth and Weight

- Do you think most people can relate to the main idea, issue, or point?
- Is it clear why this point is important to me?
- What do you think my overall essay says about me as a person?
- Does it seem like I'm really saying something or does it feel like a random collection of thoughts?

## Organization

- Does the essay feel unified, with everything pointing toward the main point?
- Does the sequence of points or scenes feel logical and flow smoothly from beginning to end?
- How effective is the beginning at grabbing your attention?
- How effective is the ending at encapsulating the main point without being repetitive?
- How can I make my transitions and keep my essay from feeling choppy?
- Do you ever feel lost?

## Vivid Description

- Is there too much or too little generalization or abstraction?
- Where do you want more details and where do you want less?
- Where can I be more specific?
- How strong are my examples or anecdotes?

## Voice

- How would you describe my tone of voice in this essay?
- Does this sound like me?
- What are the places that are most difficult to read?

## Mechanics

- Does it feel like I putting the paragraph breaks in the right place?
- Did you find any incomplete or fused sentences?
- Am I making any consistent mistakes in grammar or punctuation?
- Did you see any misspelling, typos, or extra words that I forgot to take out?

## Engages Audience

- Does your attention ever drift?
- What are the places that my voice is most engaging?
- What impression do you think this essay will give the admissions committee?

## Connection to Institution

- Does it seem like I've done my homework and know about this college or university?
- Have I made a good argument why I'm a good fit for their institution?
- After reading this what do you think I can add to their campus?