Many colleges require students to write an essay as part of the admissions process. Here are some tips to remember:

- Your essay should let the school know more about you and what sets you apart from other applicants.

- The essay should be well written. Don’t just stop at using spell check — print out a copy and have a teacher or counselor look over it for you.

- Most schools will provide prompts instead of letting you choose the subject.

- If you’re using the Common Application process to apply to more than one school, you just have to write one essay. Then you can decide the colleges to which the essay should be sent.

- Above all, make sure you follow directions. Not following the directions may cost you the chance to attend the college you really like.