

College Planning Night Agenda

March 14, 2022

- 1. Introductions**
- 2. College Application Timeline**
- 3. Exploring Colleges/Universities**
- 4. What Colleges Look For**
- 5. How You Apply**
- 6. ACT/SAT**
- 7. Direct to College**
- 8. Common App**
- 9. Essays**
- 10. Teacher Recommendations**
- 11. Transcripts**
- 12. Naviance**
- 13. Scholarships**
- 14. Additional Resources – NCAA/NAIA**
- 15. Things to Remember**

Welcome to Lake Central High School's College-Bound Meeting

April 14, 2022

Lake Central High School Guidance Staff

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Counselors • Robin May (A-Brown) • Megan Graman (Brt-Dem) • Ginger Marinkovich (Den-Gond) • Nicole Raber (Gonz-Jim) • Jessica Sanchez (Johnsen-L) • Karen Fatouros (M-Ne) • Steven Aguilera (Ng-Rh) • Ashley Kline (Ri-Rz) • Jackie Barthelemy (S-TeX) • Tom Golumbeck (Th-Z) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administrators/Staff • Erin Novak, Principal • Ashley Kline, Guidance Department Head • Laura Selin, Registrar • Sherrie Bereda, Naviance Secretary • Courtney Severin, Secretary • Beth Toth, Data Secretary |
|---|---|

College Application Timeline

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › FRESHMEN: › Do your best in Class - Build GPA › Get Involved - Quality NOT Quantity › Explore Naviance › SOPHOMORES: › Build Resume - Naviance › Research Colleges › Start College visits/Meet with Representatives at LC | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Juniors: › College Visits › Take SAT at Lake Central › Narrow Down College Choices › Think About Recommenders › Seniors: › Apply/Watch Deadlines › Request Transcripts/Letters of Recommendation › FAFSA › Apply for Scholarships |
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Explore Colleges/Universities

- *Location
- *Majors
- *Public/Private
- *Small/Large
- *Tuition
- *Extra Curricular Opportunities

College Fairs..

- › College Fairs..
- › NACAC: National Fairs in Spring and Fall
- › Local: Purdue Northwest, Merrillville HS,
- › Crown Point HS, Valparaiso University, Lake Central
- › NACAC:
 - › <https://www.nacacfairs.org/virtual>
 - › Coalition for College:
 - › <https://www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org>

College Visits

1. Best time to visit is when school is in session
2. Tour campus, visit academic department, sit in on class, explore dorms
3. Colleges videos, lots of information online, visit once accepted
4. Bring back documentation for the Attendance Office
5. Students are permitted two absences for College Visits

Admission Representative Visits to Lake Central

- › By listing schools you are interested in, you will be notified through Naviance when that university representative will be visiting LCHS.
- › Visits are also announced on the Daily Announcements and via the @LCHS_Guidance Twitter account.

Upcoming College Visits

- › Tuesday, March 15th After School in Library
- › Prairie State College
- › Wednesday, March 16th After School in Library
- › University of Alabama
- › Wednesday, March 16th After School in Library
- › Valparaiso University
- › Wednesday, April 13th – College/Career Fair at LC during PTE on Main Street

High School Course Selection/College Evaluation

- › What student should do...
 - › Challenge yourself with course selection
 - › AP/Honors Courses for high achieving students
 - › Courses that align with interests
- › What Colleges look for..
 - › AP/Honors vs Easy A's
 - › Grade Trending
 - › GPA and GPA recalculation
 - › Test Scores (SAT/ACT)
 - › Letters of Rec (if required)
 - › Activities and involvement
 - › Essay

College Application Process

Complete the application through the college/university's admission webpage or the Common Application

Many colleges/universities will create an account/ portal for the applicant and important information will be sent through THAT account. CHECK THIS OFTEN!!!

Examples:

- Missing documents and acceptance documents

College Application Process

- › Average application fees range from \$30–\$100 (*Students on free/reduced lunch may qualify for a waiver and should see their counselor*)
- › Complete and submit application
- › Request teacher recommendations if needed
- › Request transcripts through Naviance NOT Parchment (Sept 1)
- › Counselors complete additional required reports

College Application Process

- › Students send ACT or SAT scores DIRECTLY from the testing agency (ACT.org or collegeboard.com)
- › If you want/need to send transcripts for any dual credits, they must be sent BY the college/university from which the credits were earned. (Ivy Tech, Vincennes, IUN, Purdue Northwest)
 - › DO NOT SEND DUAL CREDIT UNTIL YOU DECIDE WHERE YOU WILL BE ATTENDING!

ACT/SAT Prep and Exams

- › SAT - College Board
- › ACT - ACT.org
- › ** Test Optional/Text Flexible
- › Times to take exam
- › Superscore
- › Which one should I take?
- › Prep work: Khan Academy/PSAT
 - 6hrs - 90 points
 - 20hrs - 115 points
 - (16,000 students)

ACT vs SAT

- › <https://www.princetonreview.com/college/sat-act>
- › <https://blog.prepscholar.com/is-the-act-easier-than-the-sat>

When to Apply

- › Most open up application on August 1, and deadlines are posted on admissions websites for each college/university.
- › Purdue University: In order to be considered for merit-based scholarships and/or Early Action, student applications and all materials must be submitted by November 1st.
- › Indiana University Bloomington: Priority deadline for maximum scholarship consideration is November 1st.

Direct Application vs Common Application

- › Direct: Apply directly through website
- › Common App: One application used by over 900 colleges and universities - for example: Purdue West Lafayette, Notre Dame, Indiana State University, University of Chicago, University of Michigan, Indiana University.
- › Butler and Valparaiso University use both the Common App and/or their own online application
- › Common App and most application's will open August 1, 2022

The Common Application

- › It includes:
 - 5 lengthy student information sections
 - Common App essay – ESSAY PROMPTS SAME AS 21-22
 - Additional essays specific to schools to which the student is applying
 - Counselor reports/evaluations

THE COMMON
APPLICATION

Common Application

- › DO NOT use your school email on any applications. Be smart with your email choice!
- › NEVER REQUEST LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION THROUGH THE COMMON APP – ONLY REQUEST THROUGH NAVIANCE
- › The exact email/name listed on the Common Application is used to match with Naviance.
 - Matching allows all the documents: transcripts, application, counselor secondary school report, recommendations, etc, to be "bundled" before sending.

Common App Essay Prompts 22-23

- › 1. Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.
- › 2. The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
- › 3. Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?
- › 4. Reflect on something that someone has done for you that has made you happy or thankful in a surprising way. How has this gratitude affected or motivated you?
- › 5. Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.
- › 6. Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?
- › 7. Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design.

College Essays

- › Watch Word Limits – Common App 650
- › Personal Statements
- › Supplemental Essays
 - › Numbers vary from school to school
 - › *Why do you want to attend x university?
 - › *How will you contribute to campus life?
 - › *Why did you select your major?

Request Teacher Recommendations

- › It is good etiquette to personally ask the teacher for recommendation prior to requesting the it through Naviance.
- › It is ALSO good etiquette to give your recommender at least two weeks to write the letter.
- › With Naviance, if a school only required ONE letter of recommendation, the first one submitted is the one that is sent to that university.
- › Teachers cannot upload letters until approximately August 15th.

Request Teacher Recommendations

- › Prioritize teachers within intended major (math/science – engineering)
- › Letters for competitive majors/schools should show "growth" over high school
- › If the recommendation is for a scholarship that requires them to mail in their recommendation, provide the recommender with an envelope/stamp and address of where to send the letter.
 - › If you don't need a letter, DON'T ASK FOR ONE!!

Transcripts

- › Request through Naviance ONLY
- › **DO NOT USE PARCHMENT** –Alumni Only
- › Allow 4–6 weeks for colleges to post to student portal
- › Match if using Common App:
- › <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qj eDWpfBb3Y&authuser=0>

Naviance: What it has to offer

- › Students only!
- › Student email and ID
- › Login issues: email sbereda@lcscmail.com
- › WITHIN NAVIANCE
- › ABOUT ME: Career Interest Profiler/Learning Style Inventory, Resume
- › COLLEGES: Supermatch, Scattegrams, Scholarships, College Acceptance, Letters of Recommendation
- › CAREERS: Roadtrip Nation, Explore Careers
- › PLANNER: Calendar, track deadlines

Important Information!!!

- › Document requests (letters of rec, counselor recommendations, transcripts etc) need to be submitted no later than Wednesday, Oct. 12th to ensure they will be submitted by Nov 1 deadline.
- › All Transcript requests for colleges/universities need to be requested through Naviance.
- › Login issues: contact Mrs. Bereda at sbereda@lcscmail.com

Scholarships

- › Naviance under Colleges Home Page
- › Google search
- › Parents employer
- › College website

Twitter- @LCHS_Guidance

- › Scholarships
- › Deadlines
- › Scheduling
- › Events
- › News

Additional Resources

NCAA Eligibility Center

NAIA.org

Financial Aid Nights/Invest Ed

And remember.....

- › GRADES DO MATTER!!
- › Purdue WL 3.6-3.7 unweighted/recalculated
- › Indiana University Bloomington 3.7 weighted
- › Ball State 3.5 weighted
- › Purdue Northwest 3.2 recalculated
- › Indiana University Northwest 3.1 weighted
- › Applications AND essays are supposed to be done by the STUDENT!

2022-2023 Common App Essay Prompts

1. Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.
2. The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
3. Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?
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Common Terms

Naviance - A comprehensive college and career readiness program that helps align student strengths and interests to postsecondary goals.

Common App – An undergraduate college admission application that applicants may use to apply to multiple member colleges and universities.

Dual Credit – College credit earned at high school level through local colleges/universities.

Direct Application – An application tied directly to the university that is usually found on a college/university website.

Written Evaluation – Required by some Common App schools. It is similar to a letter of recommendation but is completed by a school counselor.

Early Action – Non-binding commitment to school. Students will receive an early response to their application but do not have to commit to the college until the normal reply date of May 1.

Early decision- Binding commitment to school. Student who is accepted as an ED applicant must attend the college

Rolling Admissions - Candidates are invited to submit their applications to the university anytime within a large window. Candidates usually hear within 4-6 weeks.

Open Admissions - An unselective and non-competitive college admissions process in which the only criterion for entrance is a high school diploma or a General Educational Development (GED) certificate.

Cost of Attendance - This is the average cost to attend for one academic year (fall through spring). It includes tuition and fees, books and supplies, room and board, transportation, and personal expenses.

FASFA – Free Application for Federal Student Aid. All students interested in financial aid (loans/grants) for college will need to complete this form. Some schools also require this form in order to receive any scholarships even merit based.

*Grant –Financial Aid that does not have to be paid back.

*Loan –Financial Aid that does have to be paid back.

*Work Study –Federal program that provides part time jobs on campus for students with financial need.

Deferred- If you apply as an Early Action or Early Decision applicant, your application has been converted to a regular application. It will be reviewed again during the normal admission season. You have also been freed from any obligation to attend their school if accepted. If you applied during the regular admission cycle and have been deferred, then the school probably wants more information before they make a final admissions decision — such as senior year final grades or additional test scores.

Waitlisted – Your application review is complete but you not their first option. Waitlists are a safety net for colleges, allowing them to ensure that they have enough students to fill all of their vacancies. You will usually not hear until late in the year if you are accepted.

7th Semester Grades – These are the final grades issued after 1st semester your senior year. Some schools will ask that these be sent before they make a final decision.

Graduation Survey – A survey available to all seniors in their Naviance account. It asks where the student will be attending as well as offers space to include any scholarship information. This is how a list is generated to send final transcripts to schools.

Associates Degree – A two year degree from an accredited college/university.

Bachelors Degree – A four year degree from an accredited college/university.



EDUCATION

Home / Education / Best Colleges

ACT vs. SAT: How to Decide Which Test to Take

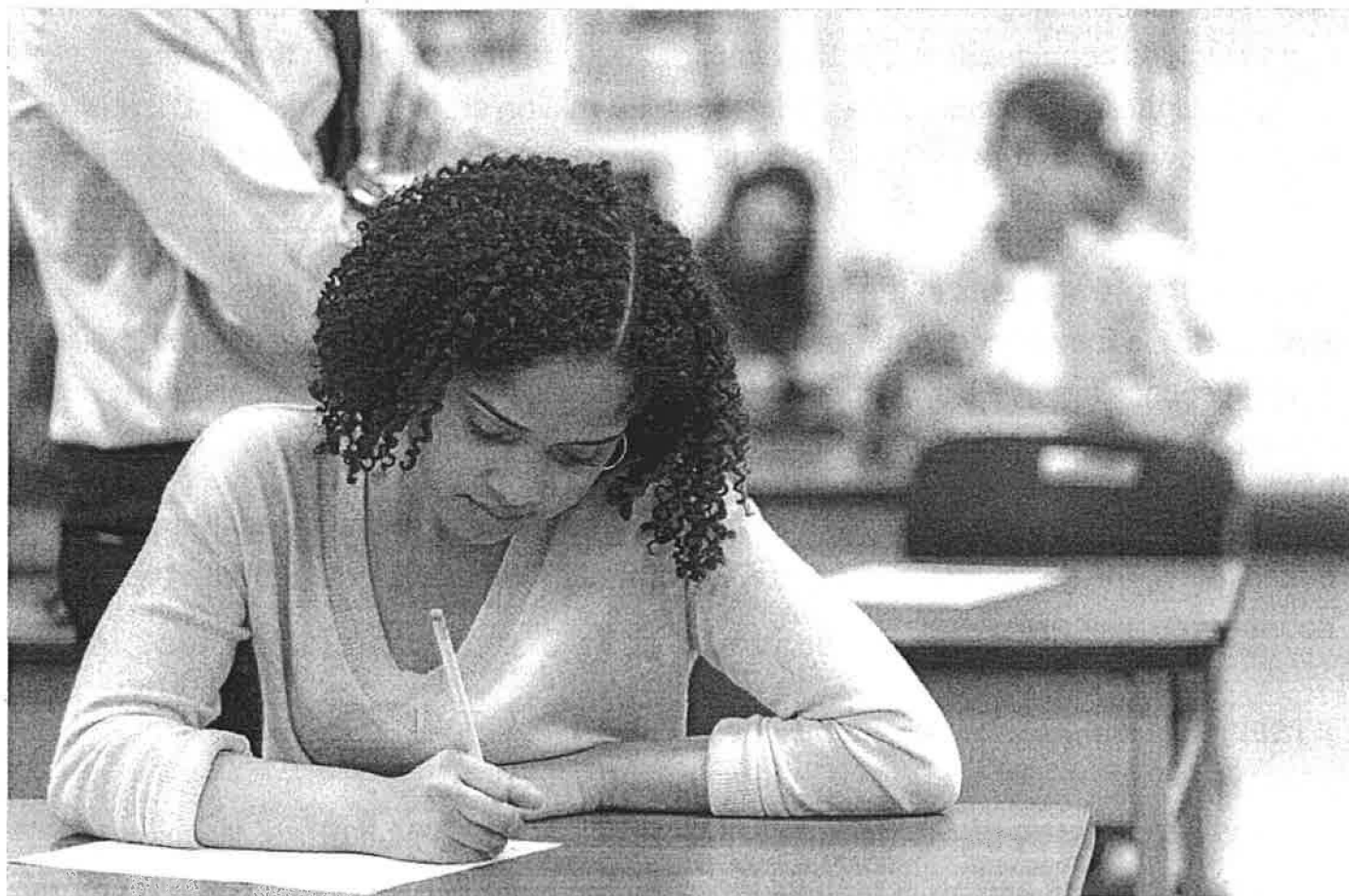
The goals of the ACT and SAT are the same: to gauge readiness for college.

By [Josh Moody](#)

March 10, 2021



Save



Begin with a practice test and see which exam is best suited for you. (GETTY IMAGES)

When it comes to the ACT vs. the SAT, both exams are widely accepted by U.S. colleges, which often prompts students to ask: Which test should I take?

Tackling SAT, ACT Vocabulary Questions



The answer to that question lies in understanding the differences between the two tests.

Both college admissions exams remain popular even as the coronavirus pandemic has prompted many colleges to go test-optional and temporarily deemphasize these exams in admissions considerations. In the class of 2020, nearly 2.2 million test-takers completed the SAT at least once while about 1.7 million students took the ACT. It is unclear how many students took both, but experts say it is common for test-takers to do so.

"More and more students in the last five to 10 years are taking both," says Joe Korfmacher, a former counselor at a New York high school and current director of college counseling at a New York office of Collegewise, an admissions consulting company.

The idea behind both exams is similar: to demonstrate college readiness. But despite similar aims, the tests vary in structure and timing as well as the content matter and scoring.

[**SEE:** 25 Colleges With the Highest SAT Scores.]

The SAT is offered by the not-for-profit College Board, which also offers Advanced Placement courses and other testing services. The nonprofit ACT organization is more limited in scope, focusing largely on its namesake test.

ACT vs. SAT: Choosing Which Test to Take

Students hoping to find the easier testing option are out of luck.

"These are high-stakes tests; neither of them is going to be easy," says Mai Jumamil, former director of college prep programs at Kaplan, a New York-based education company.

Korfmacher seconds that opinion: "I can definitely say, with certainty, that there's not an easier test."



To help students make their decision, experts suggest they begin with a practice test and see which exam is best suited for them.

"Your actual ability, how well you do percentile-wise on these tests, is really hard to determine unless you sit down and take a full-length official practice test from both the SAT and ACT," says Chris Lele, senior GRE/SAT curriculum manager for Magoosh, a California-based test prep company. "I think in general it makes sense to put all of your time and resources into the test that you're going to do better on percentile-wise. I think the complication is when you do around the same."

The two exams may appeal to different types of students, says Jumamil. A key difference is that students with a strong English background "may flourish on the ACT," which puts more emphasis on verbal skills, she says, while for students who are strong in math, "the SAT may reflect that much better."

Elizabeth Levine, an independent educational consultant and founder of Signature College Counseling in New York, advises students to take both college admissions tests. Ideally, she says, they take both tests by the fall of their junior year and then prepare at length to retake their preferred exam.

[**READ:** When to Take the SAT, ACT.]

Deciding to Take or Skip the ACT Writing Test

The College Board announced in early 2021 that it was ending the SAT optional essay and subject tests. Currently, the ACT continues to offer its optional 40-minute writing test that accompanies the exam.

Experts have different views on whether a student should take the optional writing portion.

"We're actually advising our students not to do the (optional) writing section," Korfmacher says, explaining that many colleges no longer require or recommend it.

But Levine encourages her students to take it: "The last thing you want to do is not take the optional writing section and find out that the school you're applying to requires or recommends it."



To Lele, it depends. "Unless you really struggle with writing, it's probably a good idea to take the essay so that can be an extra data point that colleges have to assess you by," he says.

Recent data shows that the majority of students complete the optional essay for each exam. More than 1.2 million test-takers from the class of 2020 opted for the SAT essay the last year it was given before discontinuation, according to College Board data. For the ACT, 678,906 students from the class of 2020 took the writing test. Compared with the class of 2019, fewer test-takers from the class of 2020 took the optional writing portions for either exam.

SAT vs. ACT Score Conversion

For students interested in comparing scores on the SAT and ACT, the College Board and the ACT organization provide conversion charts to show how composite scores stack up. The table below offers a breakdown of this data. According to figures from both organizations, the average SAT test score for 2020 high school graduates was 1051, and the average ACT score was 20.6.

1600-1570

36 ACT EQUIVALENT

1560-1530

35 ACT EQUIVALENT

1520-1490

34 ACT EQUIVALENT

1480-1450**33 ACT EQUIVALENT**

1440-1420**32 ACT EQUIVALENT**

1410-1390**31 ACT EQUIVALENT**

1380-1360**30 ACT EQUIVALENT**

1350-1330**29 ACT EQUIVALENT**

1320-1300**28 ACT EQUIVALENT**

1290-1260**27 ACT EQUIVALENT**

1250-1230**26 ACT EQUIVALENT**

1220-1200**25 ACT EQUIVALENT**

1190-1160**24 ACT EQUIVALENT**

1150-1130

23 ACT EQUIVALENT

1120-1100

22 ACT EQUIVALENT

1090-1060

21 ACT EQUIVALENT

1050-1030

20 ACT EQUIVALENT

1020-990

19 ACT EQUIVALENT

980-960

18 ACT EQUIVALENT

950-920

17 ACT EQUIVALENT

910-880

16 ACT EQUIVALENT

870-830

15 ACT EQUIVALENT

820-780

14 ACT EQUIVALENT

770-730

13 ACT EQUIVALENT**720-690****12 ACT EQUIVALENT****680-650****11 ACT EQUIVALENT****640-620****10 ACT EQUIVALENT****610-590****9 ACT EQUIVALENT**

ACT vs. SAT Timing

The SAT takes three hours and the ACT lasts two hours and 55 minutes, though the ACT's 40-minute optional writing test would stretch it to a little more than three and a half hours.

The SAT features 154 questions vs. 215 for the ACT. Broken down by test components, the SAT has a reading test that takes 65 minutes, a 35-minute writing and language test and an 80-minute math section. The ACT is comprised of a 35-minute reading test, 45-minute English test, 60-minute math section and 35-minute science test.

The SAT does not include an independent science section but incorporates science questions throughout the exam.

The scoring for each test also differs. For the SAT, total scores range from 400-1600; for the ACT, the composite score runs from 1-36. Those ranges do not include the optional ACT writing test, which is scored separately.

ACT and SAT Costs

The costs of the exams also vary. The SAT costs \$52. The ACT costs \$55 for only the exam and \$70 if the optional writing test is included.

Additional fees may apply for other options, such as late registration. Students may also be able to take the SAT or ACT for free thanks to state support or fee waivers.

How to Be Successful on the ACT or SAT

Regardless of which test students decide to take, the goal is the same: earning a score that shows college readiness.

[**READ:** How High School Juniors Can Set ACT, SAT Goals.]

To help students be successful, experts offer strategic test-prep tips. Some are simple, such as bring a snack on test day and take breaks when offered. Others require much more time and deliberation on the part of the student, such as identifying and working on weak spots in testing.

One best practice recommended by experts is to study well ahead of the test date.

"You really need to give yourself enough time to work out the areas you struggle in," Lele says.

Searching for a college? Get our complete rankings of Best Colleges.

12 Test Prep Tips for SAT and ACT Takers

TOP 10 TIPS FOR WRITING A COLLEGE ESSAY

1: **Start early.** More time = less stress. You'll have plenty of time to give the essay your best effort.

2: **Be yourself.** One of the biggest mistakes students make is writing what they think others want to hear, rather than about an issue, event, or person they care about. An essay like that is not just boring to write. It's boring to read. What interests you? What do you love to talk about? Write about that. Think of your essay as a creative way to help college officials get to know you as a person.

3: **Be honest.** College admission officers have read hundreds, even thousands of essays. They are masters at discovering any form of plagiarism. Don't risk your college career by buying an essay off the internet or getting someone else to write your essay.

4: **Stay focused.** Read the essay question carefully. Jot down a few ideas, then choose the one that looks like the most fun to write about. Stick to that main theme throughout the essay. Essays can help you make your case to admission officials, but don't go overboard. There will be opportunities elsewhere in the application to list all your achievements.

5: **Put your best foot forward.** Applying online may feel like you're sending email, but you're not. Incorrect capitalization or abbreviations like B4 or "thanx" are not appropriate for a formal document. Make sure your essay represents the best of you.

6: **Write and rewrite.** Don't try to knock out a masterpiece on your first try. For your first draft, write anything that comes to mind about your topic. Let it "rest" for a few hours or a few days. When you come back to the draft, look for ways to make it more focused and better written. Are there details that don't really relate to the topic? Cut them. Do you need another example? Put it in.

7: **Get a second opinion.** When you've rewritten the essay to your satisfaction, find someone who can give you advice on how to make it even better. Choose a person you respect and who knows something about writing. Ask them to tell you what they like best about your essay, and what you can do to improve it.

8: **Keep an open mind.** Criticism can be tough to hear, but try to listen with an open mind. You don't have to make every change suggested. After all, it's your essay

and no one else's. But you should seriously consider each suggestion.

9: **Proofread, proofread, proofread.** Little errors creep in throughout the writing and editing process. Before you submit your essay, make sure to proofread. Try reading your essay aloud or having someone else read it to you. Another strategy is to read the essay backward, from the last sentence to the first. Errors your eye may have previously skipped over will jump out at you.

10: **Don't expect too much from an essay.** The application essay is important. But admission officers look at the whole package — your academics, extracurricular activities, standardized tests, and other factors. Make your essay as well-written as you can, but don't put so much pressure on yourself that the rest of the application fades in importance.

From the NACAC (National Association for College Admission Counseling) Website Main Site Page 2022

