**Essay Writing Tips via Crimson Education 2021 –**

Use the **three-step experience** format to answer your essay question.

1. Write about an experience from your life that has meaning to you.
2. Talk about what you learned from the experience.
3. Finally, talk about *why what you learned matters to you* connecting it to who you are now and who you aspire to be in the future.

Being **Passionate**: Your passions can be a starting point for an essay but be careful not to focus on the passion itself so much as how the passion *has impacted you and your view of the world.* How your perspectives on you passion have changed over time are what matters, not the passion itself.

**Insight** Your admissions officers are looking for insight and personal growth about the ‘event’ you are writing/reflecting about. You do not need a sob story or a traumatic event to show this. Show them what you have LEARNED about yourself and the world from this event. How to capture insight in your essay –

* In what ways are you a better person now, after your experience, than you were before? What changed and why.
* How did misjudgments, mistakes and miscalculations you made along the way lead you to learn more about yourself, and exactly what did you learn.
* Use those reflections in your final paragraphs to connect them to how they’ve made you a better person today and show them that you are a solid applicant. (be genuine/Authentic)

**Conclusion** Don’t suggest you know it all or you are an expert (even about yourself!). Emphasize the ongoing struggle to be the best version of you. Don’t be arrogant. Show how your work to be a better person, learner and listener **is only just beginning.** (This shows maturity/perspective)

**Rewrite, Refine, Re-draft,**

Don’t be sentimental about your first couple of drafts. Be open to revising it in order to be concise, well-conceived and insightful.

Use your word count wisely. Highlight and **be selective** about activities use the unique ones that pertain to you. Show you have a depth of knowledge about the experience. Do not expand on **what you have done in** activities but share what you have learned about the experience, any challenges you faced, your solutions and what, in hindsight, you might change in the future. (eg. Not many students have had their research published or started their own company, however plenty of students are in school clubs/teams which can be very similar or mainstream. eg. debate team, environmental club, soccer etc.)

Show that you are curious and proactive by making connections from one activity to another building up to your future next steps. ie. How your annual camp counsellor/leader/co-ordinator jobs inspired your interest/pursuit of Forestry/Ecology. Make sure every paragraph **adds something new**. Don’t waste words by repeating the same thing.

Use the opening sentence to communicate the purpose of the paragraph, to frame it and to entice the admissions officer to read more! Grab their attention! Be authentic. Be YOU!

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