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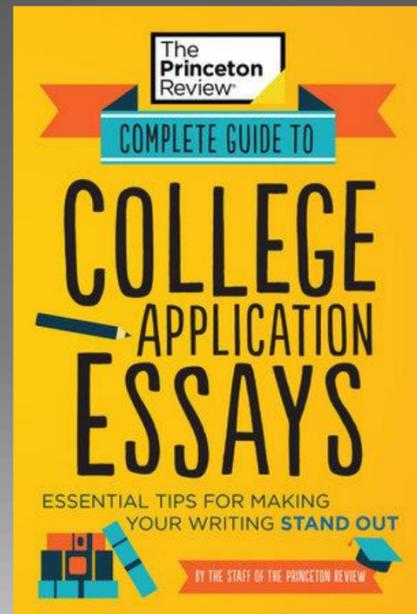
ESSAYS THAT KICK APPS

Presented By:

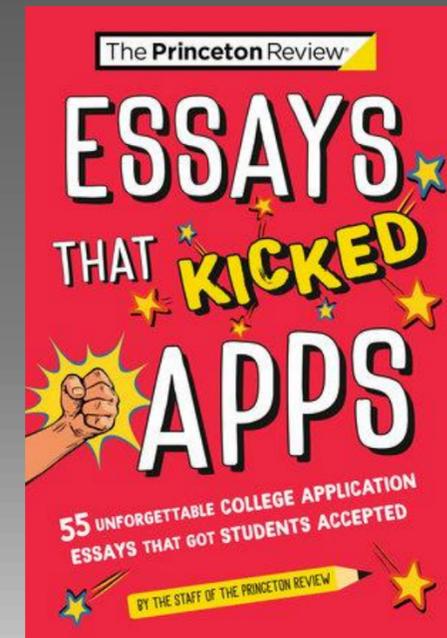
The Princeton Review®

We can help you write college application essays that get you into your dream college!

- ❖ Admissions Counseling
- ❖ Essay Review
- ❖ College Search
- ❖ Test Prep Programs
- ❖ Information Sessions



Call **888-943-6546**
to speak with an expert advisor.



ESSAYS THAT KICK APPS

1

**Why Schools
Require
Essays**

2

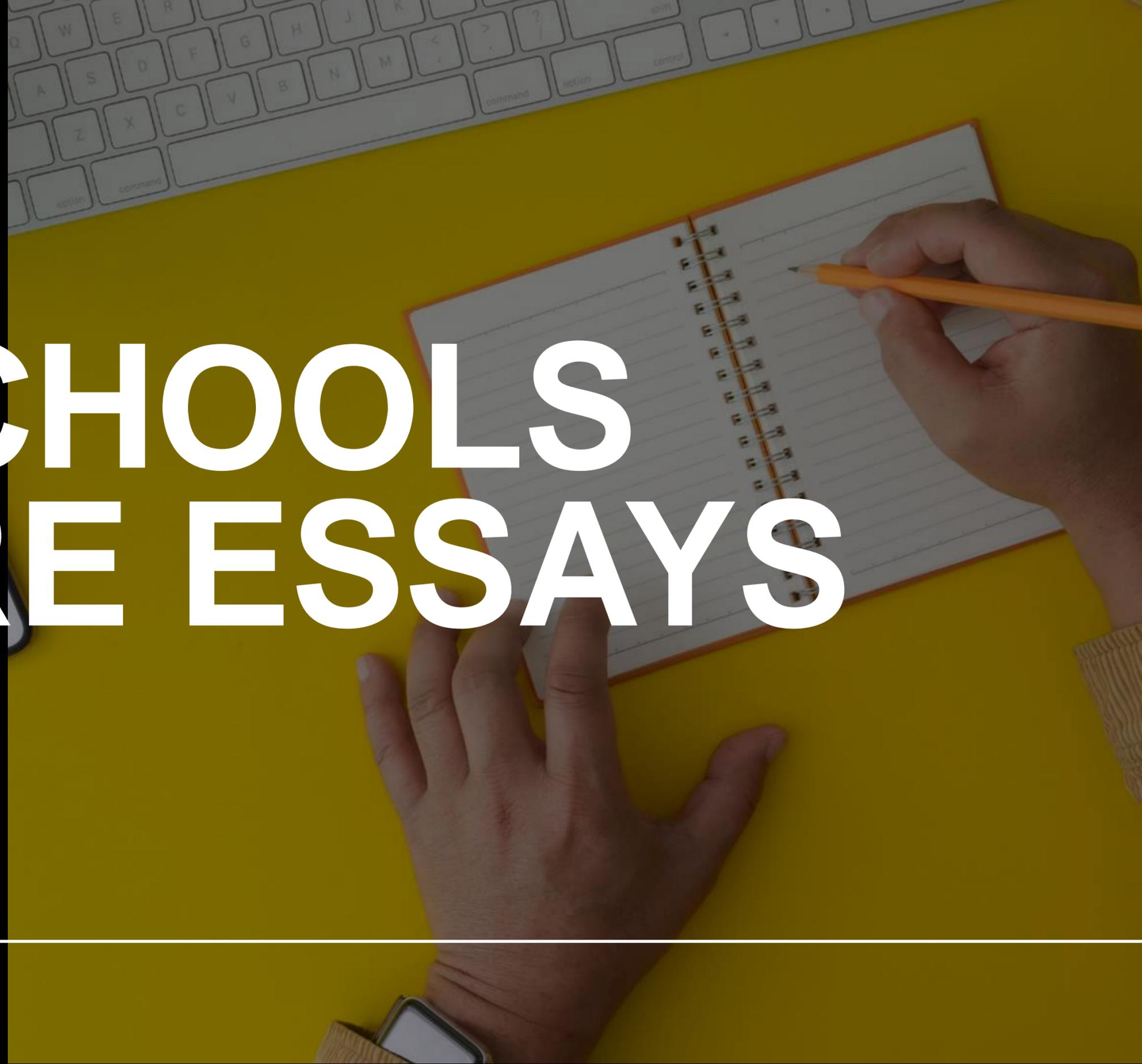
**Kicking
Essays
Up**

3

**Writing Your
Best
Essays**



WHY SCHOOLS REQUIRE ESSAYS



**Your essays show something
special in your application**

***What makes you different from
other applicants***

WHY YOU NEED TO STAND OUT

SCHOOL	APPLICANTS	STUDENTS
Florida State University	65,214	33,593
Harvard College	57,066	7,153
New York University	95,517	28,831
Pepperdine University	11,855	3,708
UC—Berkeley	109,597	32,143
University of Chicago	37,958	7,526
University of Notre Dame	23,642	8,973
Wellesley College	7,665	2,461

Why Colleges Want Essays in Applications

- ❖ Can you do the required level of work for the college?
- ❖ Are you a good fit for the college?
- ❖ Will you contribute to the college?

The Admissions Committee

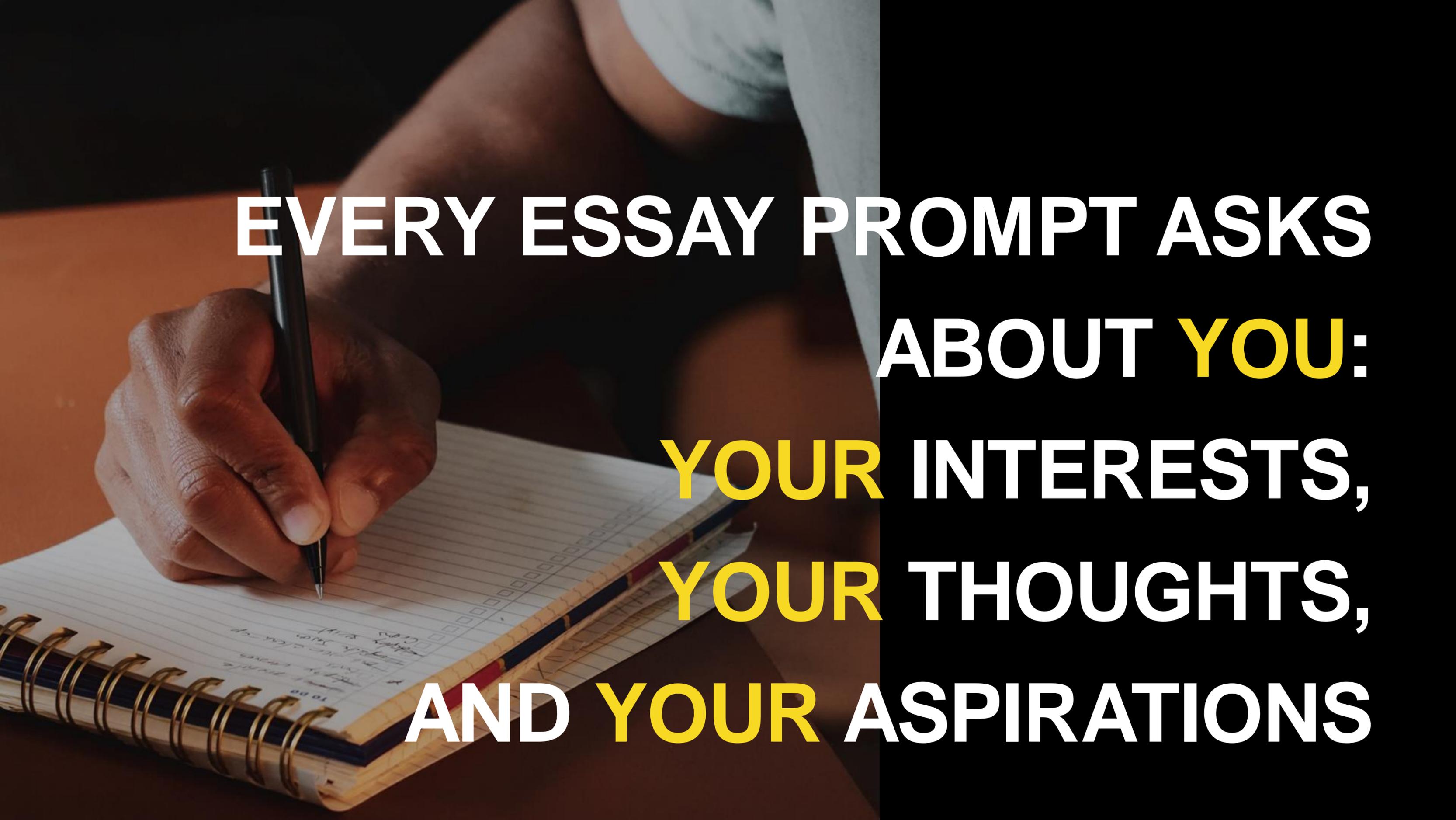
- ❖ Is sympathetic to students
- ❖ Is respectful of students and the college
- ❖ Want the students they admit to succeed

COMMON APPLICATION 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?
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.

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A close-up photograph of a person's hands writing in a spiral-bound notebook. The person is wearing a light-colored t-shirt. The notebook is open, and the person is using a black pen to write on a lined page. The background is dark, and the lighting is focused on the hands and the notebook. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

EVERY ESSAY PROMPT ASKS

ABOUT YOU:

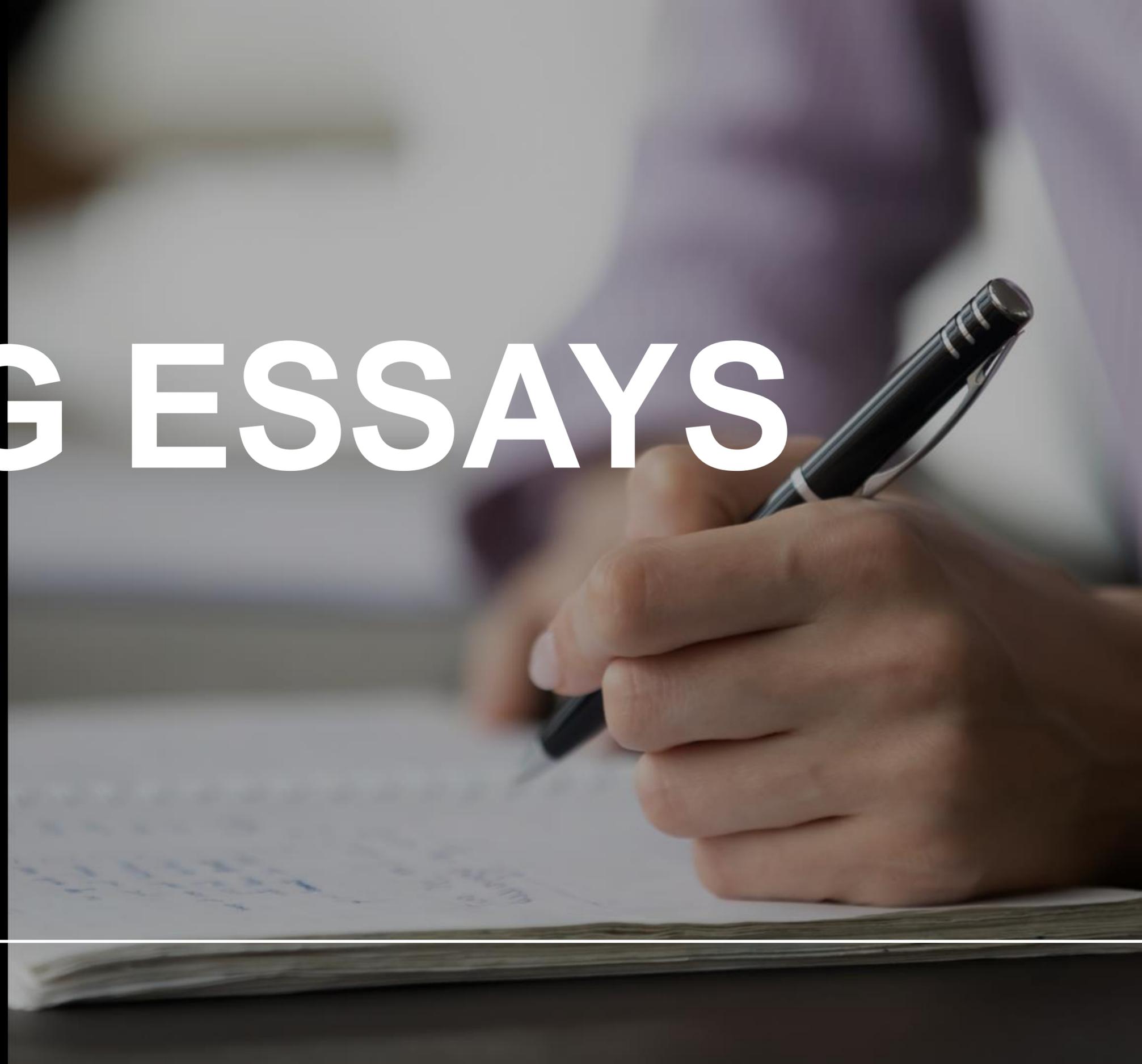
YOUR INTERESTS,

YOUR THOUGHTS,

AND YOUR ASPIRATIONS



KICKING ESSAYS UP



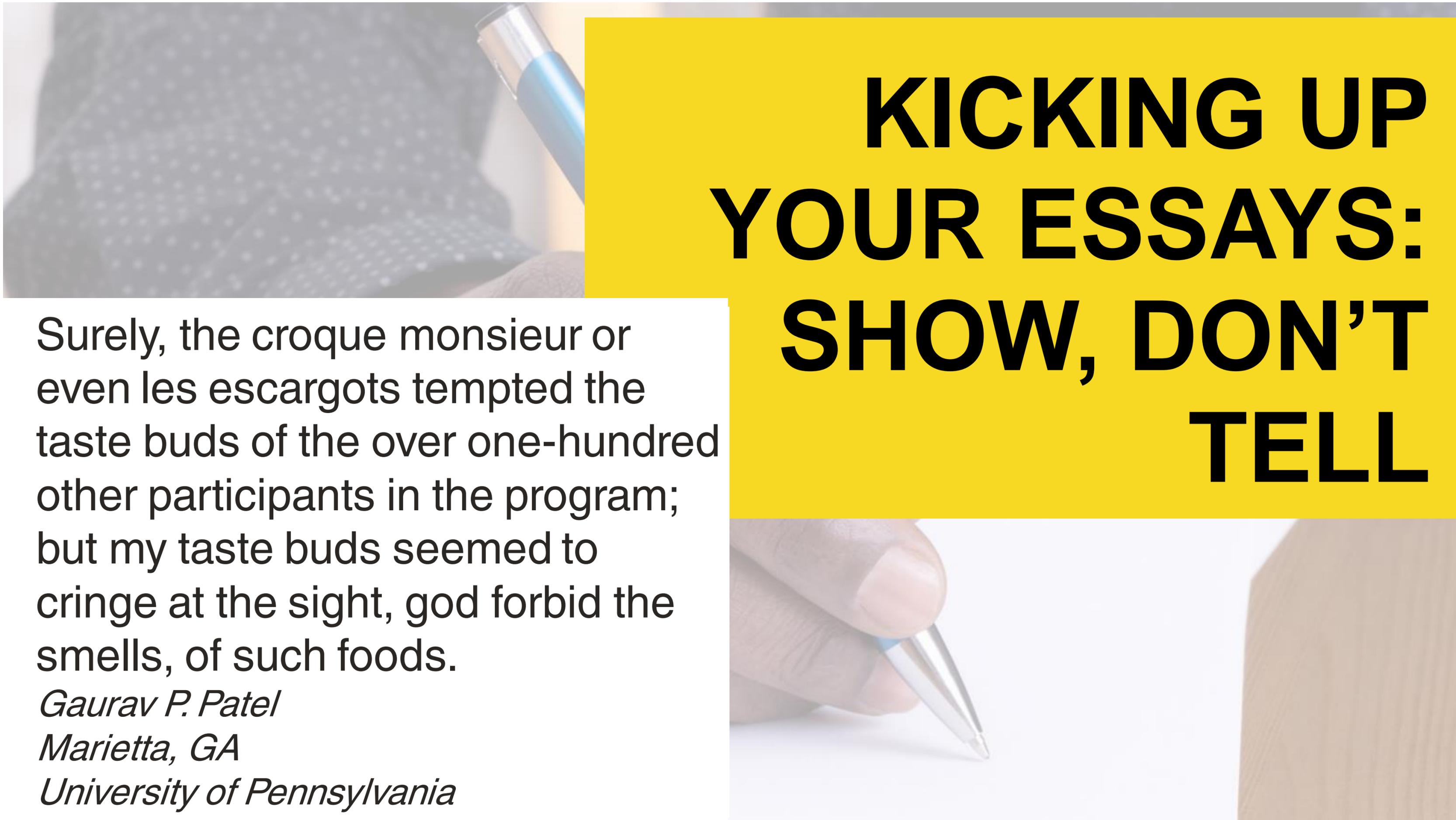
OVER-USED ESSAY TOPICS

- ❖ I scored the winning point (touchdown, basket, home run, goal).
- ❖ My fight against a disease (like fundraising for a cure for cancer).
- ❖ I moved to the United States when I was six and didn't speak English.
- ❖ I went to a foreign country on a community service trip.
- ❖ It's really hard to get good grades.
- ❖ A person (usually a close relative) means everything to me.

KICKING UP YOUR ESSAYS: THE HOOK

When it rains, the inhabitants where I live are the last to know. Welcome to Short People Land.

*Karen A. Lee
Garland, TX
Stanford University*



KICKING UP YOUR ESSAYS: SHOW, DON'T TELL

Surely, the croque monsieur or even les escargots tempted the taste buds of the over one-hundred other participants in the program; but my taste buds seemed to cringe at the sight, god forbid the smells, of such foods.

Gaurav P. Patel

Marietta, GA

University of Pennsylvania

KICKING UP YOUR ESSAYS: INFORMAL LANGUAGE

I've apologized for those little letters, but not their meaning. My pride and confidence is reflected in my writing, illuminated by my minute yet mighty penmanship. Aren't you glad you get to read my essay in 12 point font?

Claire M.

Greensboro, NC

Georgetown University

COMMON ADVICE YOU SHOULDN'T (ALWAYS) HEED

- ❖ You can't write about how you had trouble in [middle school]!
- ❖ Why didn't you say anything about your [chemistry medal]?
- ❖ That's too personal! You can't write about that!
- ❖ You can't use humor!
- ❖ You can't talk about [politics]!
- ❖ Formal essays are supposed to be in the third-person!



WRITING YOUR BEST ESSAYS



WATCH YOUR DEADLINES!!!

- ❖ **Know all application deadlines**
- ❖ **Plan to start well ahead of deadlines**
- ❖ **Allow time for editing**

EDITING BASICS

- ❖ Ask a strong writer to edit your essay
- ❖ Edit your essay multiple times
- ❖ Make sure your writing is clear and direct

THE LITTLE THINGS

❖ REDUNDANCIES

❖ MODIFIERS

❖ WORDINESS

❖ PRONOUNS

❖ WORD CHOICE

❖ SENTENCE STRUCTURE

WHAT A GREAT EDITOR TELLS YOU

- ❖ What is the main idea of the essay?
- ❖ Did it answer the question?
- ❖ Did the introduction catch your attention?
- ❖ Did the conclusion wrap up your essay?
- ❖ Is the essay technically perfect?

You can craft an
application essay
that helps you get
into your
dream college



Questions?

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