

2. The Essays: 5 Tips for Writing

1. **Avoid generalisations and clichés. The story you tell should be so unique, only *you* can tell it.**

2. **Each school you apply to is different. Your essays should likewise be different. Spend time and effort in understanding the schools you are applying for, and in writing for them.**

3. **In telling your story, know your purpose. Three things to avoid: unnecessary detail, losing track of your key message, repetition.**

4. **It is good to seek feedback from friends, particularly when trying to make sense of your experiences, or as a helpful check on grammar and language. However, friends do not dictate *your* story. *You* make the choice of what to write, and how to write it.**

5. **A good US application takes lots of time, effort and research. Thus, start writing early. Do NOT wait until the last minute. Adhere to all deadlines as required by the universities and us.**