

College Essay Proofing Guide

- **Response to Prompt**
 - Thorough response to all aspects of the prompt
- **Personal Revelation**
 - Essay is essentially about the author. Essay shows personality, growth, epiphany, etc. Essay answers the question, “So what?”
- **Interest Level**
 - Essay is interesting, memorable, or unique in some way.
- **Focus Statement**
 - Focus statement reveals the overall purpose of the essay.
- **Showing vs. Telling**
 - Writing is descriptive and engaging, rather than flat and factual.
- **Organization / Structure**
 - Essay structure is appropriate and effective.
- **Diction**
 - Word choice is engaging, appropriate, descriptive, and diverse.
- **Syntax**
 - Sentence length is appropriate and diverse.
- **Literary Devices**
 - Literary devices are used appropriately and effectively.
- **Verb Use**
 - Verbs are active (rather than passive), descriptive, appropriate, and diverse.
- **Grammar, Spelling, Mechanics, and Style**
 - Clear and effective communication skills are evident. Writer avoids clichés. Writer’s personality is communicated through his or her style.