



# DOES YOUR COLLEGE ESSAY PASS THE “SUBMIT” TEST?



## 1. Could anyone else put their name on it and call it their own?

(If you answered yes, or maybe, or hmmm, I’m not sure? then your essay is probably not doing you justice. You may need to add in more personal details to set it apart from the slush pile of other essays that hover in the realm of vagueness and clichés.)

## 2. Can you summarize the message in one sentence?

(Go on, then, do it. We’ll wait....If you find yourself struggling to capture the essence of your essay in a sentence or two, it may be too meandering. We’re not saying your essay needs to read like a treatise in defense of your life, but it should be driven by an overarching message that captures something unique about you.)

## 3. Did you do a basic grammar check?

(If you’re thinking to yourself, “my grammar is probably fine,” then you may be a little too relaxed about your essay. Read it carefully one more time. Do all your subjects and verbs agree? Do you have any run-on sentences polluting your essay? Are your commas in the right place? It’s worth the extra time to double check!)

## 4. Are you within word count?

(This is such a simple fix. But FYI, Google Docs can be misleading, so drop your essay into Microsoft Word or use an online word counter to be extra sure.)

## 5. Did you choose your prompt?

(While the Common App casts a wide enough net with their prompts to allow for pretty much any essay topic, you still want to make sure you select one that makes the most sense for your essay.)

## 6. Did you do one last “gut check”?

(You’ve been in the weeds with your writing for a while now--hopefully. It’s time to set it aside for a night or two. Then re-read it with fresh eyes. If you like how it sounds, leave it alone! If your gut is telling you otherwise, then best to heed its warning.)

**Once you have run your essay through this final check and feel great about hitting “Submit,” do it with confidence and pride. Then kick back and relax!  
You’ve earned it.**

**GET A FINAL PROOFREAD FROM THE EXPERTS AT**



**COLLEGE ESSAY ADVISORS**