

YOUR SUPPLEMENTAL ESSAYS: FAQs

1. Do I really need to write 20 ... 30 ... 50 essays for different colleges?!

Happily—no! You can reuse significant portions of just a few core essays to complete all of your supplements. Most colleges want to know about a community you're a part of; how you deal with intellectual disagreements with others; and a core element of your identity. If you write about those three, you can spread them out.

2. Wait a minute ... what about the “Why Here?” essays?

It's true, colleges do ask you why you want to attend their institution specifically, and that's hard to copy. However, there is a principle that can help minimize your work. It's called the “you first” approach. When you write about why you're applying to a school, you need to start with why YOU are perfect for the school. And that story will not change. You'll only need to write about half an essay per college, filling in specifics there that appeal to you.

3. It's still a lot to keep track of. How can I organize essays for all of my schools?

If you work with a Bespoke coach, we'll offer organizational tools that help you minimize the number of essays you need to write and use your ideas intelligently. You can also DIY spreadsheets, checklists, and Google folders! Most of all, make sure you put each college's application deadline on your calendar.

4. Do they really throw out your essay if you put the wrong college name?

Unfortunately, yes. It's crucial to double-check and ensure you tailor your essay to each individual college.

5. How do I keep my supplements from being like a resume?

It is easy to just list things you've done that you want to keep doing in college, and sometimes you will mention “resume items” or classes you've taken already. Focus on explaining the WHY behind your passions, not just the WHAT.

6. It's hard to write this supplement because I'm not excited about the school.

If you lack enthusiasm for a school, it may be best not to apply there. It's best to apply to places where you genuinely see yourself thriving.