

## Tips for writing your college essay.

The prompt on the application asks you to respond to the following statement: “At Marquette University we believe all of our students should “Be the Difference”. Consider all aspects of your life: family, community, workplace, etc.”

An essay is a type of writing that attempts to inform, persuade, or entertain a reader. Informal essays often employ personal opinion and experience to define terms, compare and/or contrast ideas, create cause and affect relationships, and argue for a particular point of view. More formal essays make use of sources beyond the author to generate ideas. The format of all essays includes an introduction, body, and conclusion. The introduction should include a clear thesis statement which serves as the main point of the essay. The body will develop the ideas of the thesis through evidence and examples, and the conclusion will restate the thesis and summarize the argument.

When constructing your essay response, consider the following:

1. Main point or thesis of your essay  
This defines the topic of your essay, and the main point or thesis statement helps to organize your essay for the reader.
2. Structure  
An essay generally includes more than two paragraphs and contains an introduction, body, and conclusion. The paragraphs need to consist of developed sentences; avoid bullet points. Organize your paragraphs within your paper, as well as the information in the paragraphs themselves. Read your essay out loud and listen for smooth transitions between paragraphs.
3. Idea development  
Make sure the idea remains consistent to the main point or thesis throughout the essay. Proceed in an orderly and systematic fashion that is indicative of the structure of content introduced in your thesis or main point.
4. Word choice/verbal expression  
Use words that are appropriate for college-level writing and avoid slang. Use formal or standard English.
5. Grammar and mechanics  
Make sure you are writing complete sentences using correct punctuation and grammar.
6. Relax and have fun!  
Tell us a little about yourself. Communicate and engage us. Make sure you put your name, address, phone, and e-mail on your essay.

There is no right or wrong answer in your essay. Your essay should reflect what you want to say and not what you think we would like to hear. Be careful to proofread your essay because it is our impression of you and suggests what type of student you might be.

Our goal in reviewing and evaluating an admissions essay is to make sure you have the skills to be successful at Marquette University and the College of Professional Studies. We want to make sure you can compose an essay with a main point or thesis statement and that you have the ability to link together a number of paragraphs to express an idea. Because of multiple entrance points, your essay may also be used to determine placement into specific classes to best match your entering abilities.