

University Admissions Essay

Paragraph I - Introduction

- Capture the readers' attention! Make them want to read more
- Remember - This is the admission committee's FIRST impression of you
 - *DO NOT* say "Hi, my name is..." Your name will go somewhere else on the paper.

Paragraph II - Why do you want to go to THIS particular university?

- What makes this university so special?
- What has led you to your decision to apply here?

Paragraph III - Why should the admissions committee select YOU?

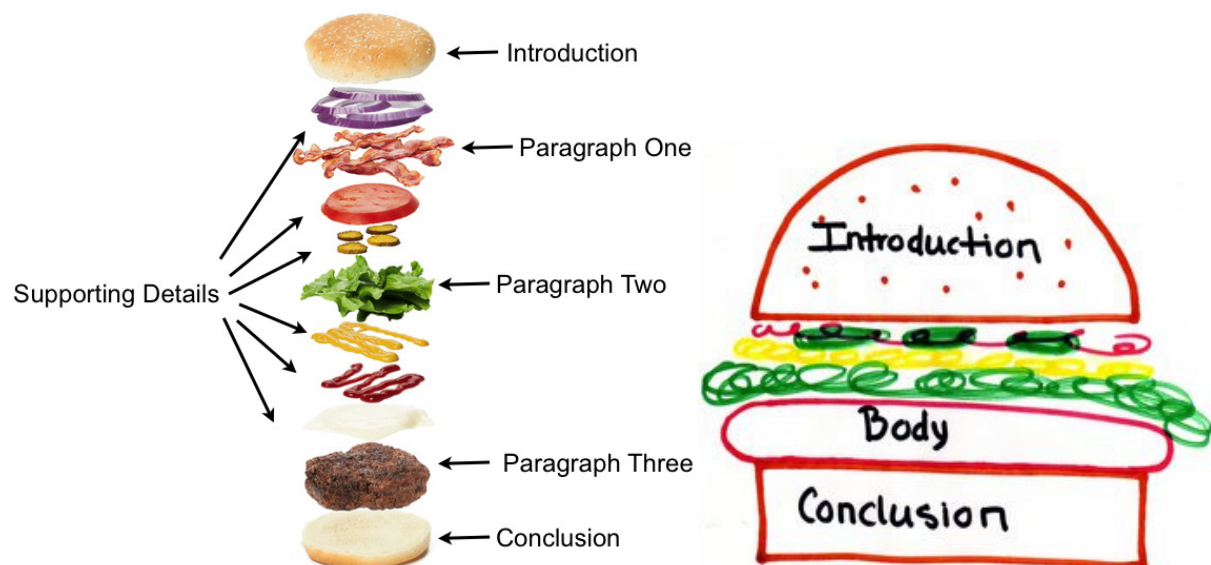
- What interests, talents, and previous experiences do you bring to the university?
 - *If you have any accomplishments or experiences from high school that relate to your future field of study, be sure to mention them!*
- What are your qualifications? (Grades in secondary school, test scores, leadership positions, etc...)

Paragraph IV - What are your goals for attending this university?

- What do you want to study?
- How will attending this university help you with your career and with achieving your dreams?

Paragraph V - Conclusion

- Wrap it all up – summarize!
- Leave them thinking about you long after their done reading – end on a strong note!



The historian and philosopher Henry Brooks Adams once said, “A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops.” As a sophomore at the University of Alabama, I am learning to be a Spanish teacher and working towards achieving my ultimate goal of positively influencing the lives of young adults. My experiences during my undergraduate years will not only influence my life, but will influence the lives of my future students.

One experience that is essential to being a highly qualified Spanish teacher is the opportunity to study abroad. Although I have been studying Spanish for many years, I still have not yet achieved fluency, something that comes with completely immersing oneself in a foreign country and culture. My goal is to spend a summer studying abroad in Spain, particularly at the renowned University of Salamanca. I’m especially interested in the program in Salamanca offered by the Academic Programs International group. This program runs from mid-May to early August, costing \$7,400 plus airfare. If I am able to find the funds to study abroad for a summer, I plan to go during the summer of 2012 to achieve full fluency immediately before I begin my student teaching internship during my senior year in 2012-2013. My Presidential Scholarship does not cover the cost of studying abroad in the summer; without a scholarship I will not be able to attend a summer term in Spain. I believe having the opportunity to study abroad is vital to my understanding and appreciation of Hispanic culture and language as well my ability to pass on this knowledge and enthusiasm to my future students.

I explored the possibility of using my Presidential Scholarship towards studying abroad for a semester; however, being away from the University of Alabama’s campus for an entire semester conflicts with several of my other personal goals for my college career, the most important of which is to make a lasting difference at the University of Alabama, particularly in the Honors College. I am very active on campus as the Membership Education Vice President of

my sorority, an ambassador for the Honors College, the student leader of the Honors College half marathon training group, and the student co-director of the Alabama Action Abroad program. Leaving campus for an entire semester would severely disrupt the flow of leadership and involvement I have on campus. I want to not only positively impact our campus during my undergraduate years here, but also pave the way for future students to do the same by training the next class of leaders on campus. Being gone for an entire semester will keep me from doing this because it will force me to end most of my involvement of campus. It is for these reasons that studying abroad during the summer is the best option for me because it allows me to keep working towards achieving my college goals while at the same time preparing me for my future as a Spanish teacher.

In addition, an Honors College scholarship would greatly help my family as we are currently recovering from the expenses of rebuilding our home after the devastating flooding in Nashville in May of 2010. While my Presidential Scholarship covers the cost of tuition, it does not cover the costs of room and board, meal plans, and books. Before the flood, it may have been possible for my family to afford to send me abroad for a summer without financial assistance, but now it is not possible. Whether this financial assistance comes in the form of a study abroad scholarship, a merit scholarship, or financial aid, any form of assistance would both ease my family's financial burden and make a summer study abroad experience possible again.

It is important to me that I challenge myself through quality leadership and study abroad experiences while I am in college so that, once I graduate, these experiences can be transferred to success in my classroom, making me a better teacher, and in return, making my future students better students, leaders, and people because of me. An Honors College scholarship will not only impact my future, but future of the next generation of students as well.