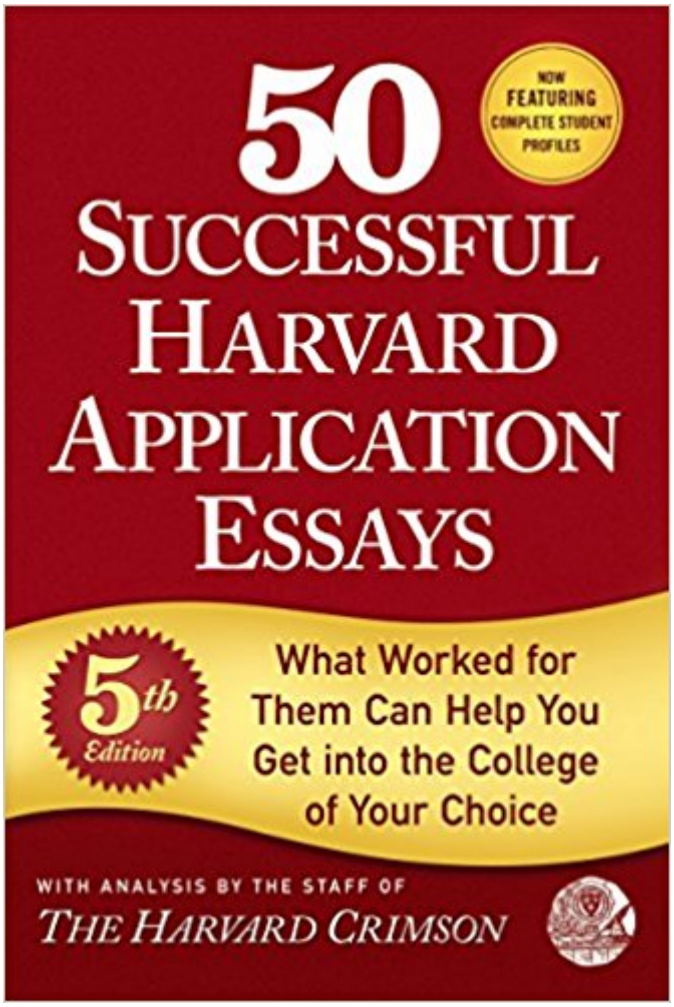
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50 Successful Harvard Application Essays: What Worked For Them Can Help You Get Into The College Of Your Choice



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Synopsis

With talented applicants coming from the top high schools as well as the pressure to succeed from family and friends, itÃ¢â ¬â„¢s no wonder that writing college application essays is one of the most stressful tasks high schoolers face. Add in how hard it is to get started or brag about accomplishments or order stories for maximum effect, and itÃ¢â ¬â„¢s a wonder that any ever get written. To help, this completely new edition of 50 Successful Harvard Application Essays, edited by the staff of the Harvard Crimson, gives readers the most inspiring approaches, both conventional and creative, that won over admissions officers at Harvard University, the nationÃ¢â ¬â„¢s top ranked college. From chronicling personal achievements to detailing unique talents, the topics covered in these essays open applicants up to new techniques to put their best foot forward. It teaches students how to: - Get started - Stand out - Structure the best possible essay - Avoid common pitfalls Each essay in this collection is from a Harvard student who made the cut and is followed by analysis by the staff of The Harvard Crimson where strengths and weakness are detailed to show readers how they can approach their own stories and ultimately write their own high-caliber essay. 50 Successful Harvard Application EssaysÃ¢â ¬â„¢ all-new essays and straightforward advice make it the first stop for applicants who are looking to craft essays that get them accepted to the school of their dreams.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

THE HARVARD CRIMSON has been the daily newspaper of Harvard University since 1873.

Published from Cambridge, MA, The Crimson is the nationÃ¢â ¬â„¢s oldest continually-operating daily college newspaper.

Useless.

The essays in the book all predate the new 500 word length limit. The critiques are interesting. In the end, the best advice is still: be yourself.

I have been tutoring students on how to write their college application essays for the last six years, and this is one of two books of sample essays that I encourage my students to buy. I also advise parents to just buy a copy of this book and leave it on the desks of their students, who can just skim through it at leisure and read a sample here and there. No pressure that way! Reading samples is one of the best ways to inspire topic ideas (to see what others have written about) and also how to write a narrative-style essay.What I especially love about this collection is the analysis after each essay, which points out the strengths and weaknesses. It shows that no one essay in this collection is perfect (Harvard or not!), but along the way you start to learn what might work for your essay. The reviewers have a keen sense of what makes an essay compelling--they really push the "slice of life" approach of focusing on one incident and expanding that into something more meaningful. Most of these essays illustrate the power of a good story (or anecdote), simple and direct language, a casual, familiar voice and an informal structure. They are not trying to hard to impress the reader and they are not academic in nature.Everyone tells students to write compelling essays, but no one shows them how to do it. (The other collection that I really like is called The Berkeley Book of College Essays: Personal Statements for California Universities and Other Select Schools (A Cody's Book) (written by high schoolers from Berkeley High, not the UC). Don't let the "Harvard" name turn you off or make you think these essays are above you--they truly vary in quality and style. I believe most students who read these essays will feel emboldened and think, "I can write something just as good as that!" And they can!--Janine Robinson, from the popular college application essay writing blog, Essay Hell, and author ofÃ Â Escape Essay Hell!: A Step-by-Step Guide to Writing Narrative College Application Essays

First of all, let me highlight this book's good points. The book does partially serve the purpose it claims to serve: give you an idea of the what good college essays may look like. The essays in this book are top notch--they avoid clichÃƒÂ©s, many of them are interesting, and virtually all of them

demonstrate that one must simply be concise and to the point when writing anything. I've learned a lot of writing tips from this book, and the critiques were important to look at because they basically tell you the strengths and weaknesses of each essay. What would help me was that I read one essay at a time, thought about what seemed good and what seemed bad about that piece, and then compared it with what the Crimson critics had to say about it. All in all, this book DID help me become a better writer.But other than that, this book did not help me at all with my COLLEGE APPLICATION essays. Since I had never been through a remarkable experience like the ones these 50 applicants had faced, I felt like nothing I could write in my own college essays would compare to these works of art. Rather than give me the inspiration to write thoughtful college essays of my own, this book hurt my confidence and probably kept me from writing my essays until the last minute.Moreover, a helpful college admission essay guideline would bring up typical questions asked in applications, such as: "What are your goals and accomplishments?" "Where do you see yourself in 10 years?" "How will your studies at this college benefit you?" "What is a hardship you've personally experienced, and how have you grown from it?" It can be argued that some of the essays in this particular book loosely answers a typical question like the ones above. However, a good book on essays would have directly addressed prompts that often show up on college applications, and the best ways to tackle them. There are books that do just that, but this is not one of them.

I purchased 3 College Essay books (100 Successful College Application Essays, 50 Successful Harvard Application Essays, and Essays That Worked), and have the following comments? I believe that the Harvard book has the best suggestions on how to write an essay, along with the best commentary/critique. However, the essays are a bit too polished. I think for 90% of prospective college students, their essays would be more like those in and patterned like those in Essays That Worked. For varied ideas on essays, the 100 Successful book gives some good ideas, but I believe many of the essays to be subpar. I did each book to have some interesting general reading, especially if one likes ?short stories?? or if one is interested in 17 & 18 year olds, and what goes thru their minds.

I remember when this book came out and I was in middle school! Reading it then the essays seemed intimidating, but by the time I applied to College I was really ready to digest the book and compose my own essay. The best thing to take away from it is the tone and depth of the essays, don't just copy them or use the same idea and change the diction. I had the pleasure of working on the second edition of this book which comes out in September (I got to write a critique of one of the

new essays), so I might be a little biased. Yet, as a Harvard Student that has worked in the admissions office, I can now say that these essays are good examples of what is expected and that the critiques are on the level of those you would receive from any admissions officer or guidance counselor.

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