



EducationUSA Spain

Writing Mentor Program

Essay Evaluation Checklist

Student Name

Prompt

Draft No.

Topic & Main Idea

- Does the essay answer the prompt?
- Is the topic appropriate for a college essay?

Writing

- How is the student's spelling? [highlight errors in-text]
- Do they consistently use either American or British English? (They should stick to one throughout)
- Are there any grammatical errors? [highlight errors in-text]
- Do they use clear and concise language, making full use of the word count, while not going over?
- Do they avoid vague or empty statements, clichés and cultural references that may not translate to an American audience?



Structure and Style

- Does the student avoid simply listing activities or accomplishments?
Do they tell a story?
- Does the student write in the first person? Does the student avoid beginning the majority of sentences with “I?”
- Does the essay have a clear theme or logical structure?
- Does the student remove references to other universities?
- Does the student provide a well-rounded view of themselves?
- Does the essay showcase their voice? Does the essay have a tone that is appropriate for a college essay?
- Does the essay tell the reader something important about the student?

Overall Comments

- What is your overall impression of the essay?
- What is the strongest part of the essay?
- What is the weakest part of the essay?
- What three things have you learned about the student?
- Did any part of the essay leave you confused? Are you left wanting to know more about something?
- Any other feedback?