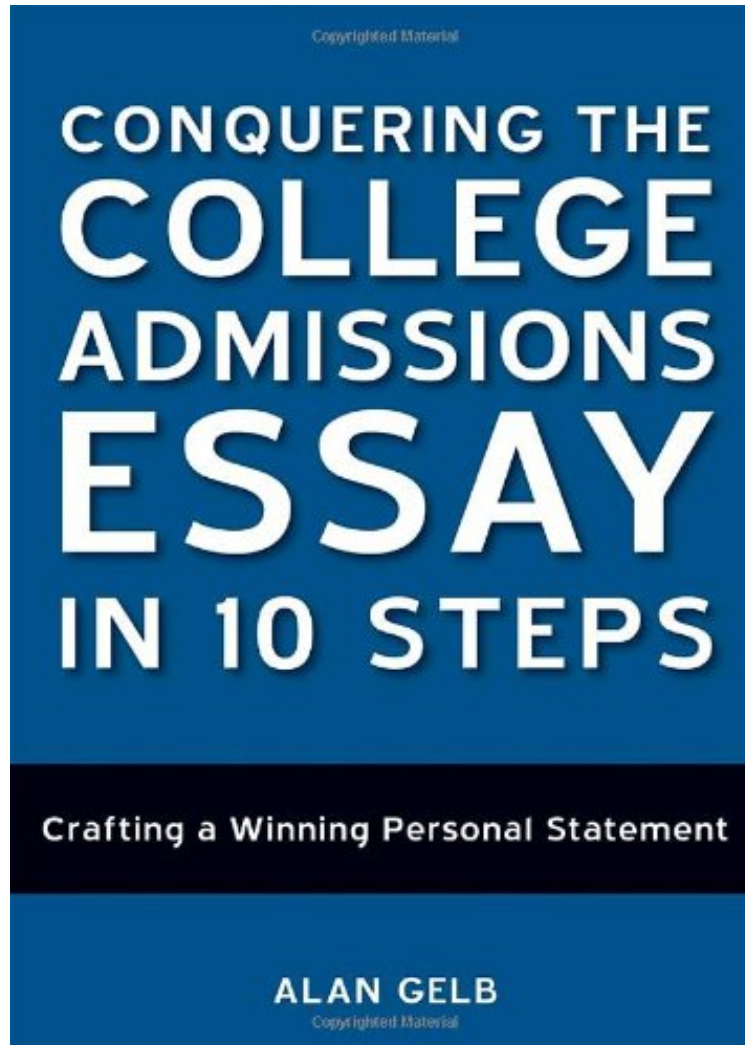


Conquering the College Admissions Essay in 10 Steps: Crafting a Winning Personal Statement

Alan Gelb

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Alan Gelb : Conquering the College Admissions Essay in 10 Steps: Crafting a Winning Personal Statement

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priority on my kids' reading list. The real examples in the book show you how to go from ideas to final products. By following the process, my first child got into her dream school through Early Decision. I am so thankful for the resources this book has provided. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good read for students struggling with the college app essay! By Shirley P Pan My mother showed me this book when I was having trouble writing my college essay this past fall. "Conquering the College Admissions Essay in 10 Steps" is a short read but one that's worth your time if you're looking to start the college application process. Mr. Gelb is clear in what you have to do to craft a first-rate essay and features great (and successful) sample essays. After finishing the book I not only found it much easier to plan and organize my essay but also write it. Safe to say without this book, I wouldn't be heading to my top choice this fall! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Phenomenal Advice for a Personal Essay By Christian Fernando 'Conquering the College Admission Essay in the 10 Steps', by Alan Gelb is an excellent book for high school students who are getting ready to write their personal essay. The personal essay can be the most intimidating part of the college application process because it is so open. Many students wonder how on earth would they be able to give a perfect snapshot of themselves to a application committee? What tone would be best to use so as not to come across as overtly arrogant or timid? Did I not provide enough detail or just give an overview of my life? And most importantly is this what my college wants? Regardless of writing acumen, most students will wonder about these things as they are writing. What Mr. Gelb accomplishes with his book is he gives a comprehensive overview of what sort of approach one ought to take with a personal essay. The way this book is able to simplify such a complex and confusing task makes it truly a masterpiece.

Writing a memorable personal statement can seem like an overwhelming project for a young college applicant, but college essay coach Alan Gelb's holistic strategy and reassuring voice takes out the intimidation factor. Students will identify an engaging topic and use creative writing techniques to compose a vivid statement that will reflect their individuality. A much-needed supplement to other college entrance guides, this useful handbook will help students win over the admissions dean, while preparing them to write better papers once they've been accepted. A guide to crafting a meaningful and polished college admissions essay that expresses the applicant's unique personality, strengths, and goals. Step-by-step instructions lead students from idea to initial draft, through revisions, and to a final version ready for submission. According to the U.S. Department of Education, 69 percent of high school graduates enroll in college. Reviews Publisher's Weekly, March 24th 2008: Included in test prep/college feature article

Praise for Alan Gelb's Approach: "Indispensable... Gelb provides applicants with much-needed advice as well as the confidence and skills they need to win over the admissions dean." Sue Wasiolek, dean of students at Duke University Alan Gelb has done the impossible: he's created a sane and simple process for crafting a knock-your-socks-off essay! His guide is perfect for high school students facing the most important document they will ever write. The student still has to do the work, but Gelb's approach reduces the stress. Donald Asher, author of Cool Colleges and Graduate Admissions Essays Alan's guidance in the process of writing my college essay was invaluable. Not only did I end up with an immensely superior product than I would have without his help, I also learned, with Alan's help, how to mine the depths of my experience to find a meaningful narrative and then convey it with a clear, coherent structure. I got in early decision to Columbia University with that essay; I am forever indebted to Alan for that. Josh Freed, admitted early decision to Columbia University Taking an ordinary essay and helping to mold it into an extraordinary one is what Alan Gelb does best. [He] helped transform ... my essay into a final draft that could stand out amongst an elite crowd. Megan S. Steven, PhD, one of Alan's first students, admitted to Dartmouth for undergrad and awarded a Rhodes scholarship; now a faculty member with the Center for Cognitive Neuroscience, Dartmouth College Alan Gelb saved us by working with our daughters to help them understand what works in a college essay. My daughters' admissions to Brown and Macalester were enormously helped by his advice. Jane Hirschmann, parent About the Author ALAN GELB is a college essay coach and professional writer whose clients include colleges and universities across the country. He is the author of The Complete Student, A Survival Guide for Professionals, Most Likely to Succeed, and more. Alan lives with his family in East Chatham, New York. Excerpt. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved. Introduction If you're looking for an instruction book on how to write the college application essay, you'll be happy to know that there are quite a few excellent ones on the market. In fact, if you have all the time in the world, I suggest you check out as many of these as you can. Chances are, they'll all contain some useful ideas. But if you're pressed for time and what high school senior isn't? then you can feel confident that the book at hand is your fastest and surest way to produce the kind of application essay you're after. How is this book different from all the others out there? First of all, it has been pared down to the essentials. I've coached a great many students through this process and know that it doesn't make any sense to choose the first semester of the senior year as the time to share secrets from college admissions counselors or sample essays from great writers like E. B. White, George Orwell, and Oliver Wendell Holmes. This is the time when you want to focus exclusively on that which is absolutely critical, eliminate anything that feels like padding, and simply get the job done in the best possible way as fast as you can. To that end, I've organized this learning process into a ten-step system. I'd like to say ten easy steps because easy is such a persuasive

word, like new, improved, and best ever. But the truth is that some of these steps are not that easy. That said, none is insurmountable. If you follow this book in its logical sequence, you will arrive at your destination a well-turned college application essay designed to linger in the minds of those who read it. My book is different from others on this subject in that it focuses entirely on process. As I said, I will not be offering any extraneous material, like secrets from admissions counselors at Harvard, Princeton, or Yale. Such secrets are enticing, but ultimately do little to help your cause. What will help is to truly understand the elements of a well-constructed narrative, which is what this book will be teaching.