

**Advice Board: Help with
icouldbe Work**

The "Help with icouldbe Work" advice board is for discussions between mentees and mentors related to work concerning the icouldbe curriculum.

Subject : Practicing my College Essay!

Hello, My name is Armystrong (not my real name) I want to explain different events that had happen in my lifetime that I overcame. Each paragraph will explain my past experience, the person who made a difference by influencing me to do the right thing, the person I am today, and what I am really thankful of. I believe everything happens for a reason, but everyone learns their mistakes by taking a path, it is either the right or wrong one. There is someone who are willing to guide you through if you ask for help. With this essay, I will be able to interpret things for you to understand the conflicts that had happened during my time.

That is my introduction essay and I do not know if it is good. Not very good at writing essays.

1 Replies

Posted November 27,
: 2012
Time : 4:37 PM
Author: **ArmyStrong [m]**
(Click above to email)

Hi ArmyStrong,

I think you're on the right track here, but your introduction could use a little work.

1) FOCUS: It's great that you want to talk about important life experiences, things you've learned, or people who have influenced you -- those are all potentially good topics for a college essay. But, you need to narrow it down. If you talk about a different experience in each paragraph, you won't be able to delve too deeply into any one of them. I would recommend choosing just one topic or experience and exploring it fully.

2) STYLE: There's no need to explain what your essay will be about or how it will be structured. You should be able to figure that out just by reading! You only have 500 or so words to tell the admissions committee about yourself; don't waste it by outlining what your paragraphs will say or what you hope to demonstrate -- just write it! Your introduction should grab the attention of the readers and make them want to learn more about you.

3) DETAILS: You need to proofread and edit your writing. There are a few errors with verb tense/agreement, missing prepositions, and awkward word choice. Try reading your work to yourself out loud - this can help you 'hear' mistakes that you don't see. You can also ask a trusted teacher or adult to help you edit your work. A polished college essay is extremely important -- if there are grammar mistakes, it won't be taken seriously no matter how good the content.

It seems like you already have a lot of great ideas, now you just have to put those on paper. Good luck!