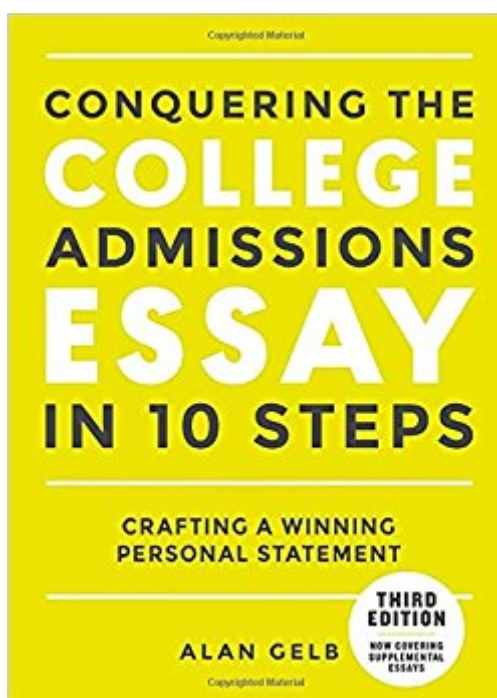


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# Conquering The College Admissions Essay In 10 Steps, Third Edition: Crafting A Winning Personal Statement



## Synopsis

The definitive guide to writing an amazing essay and mastering the college applications process. Writing a memorable personal statement can seem like an overwhelming project for a young college applicant, but college essay coach Alan Gelb's organized and encouraging step-by-step instructions take the intimidation out of the process, enabling applicants to craft a meaningful and polished college admissions essay. Gelb teaches students to identify an engaging topic and use creative writing techniques to compose a vivid statement that will reflect their individuality. A consistent top-seller in the college prep category, *Conquering the College Admissions Essay in 10 Easy Steps* has been revised to include extra information on supplemental and waitlist essays. This much-needed handbook will help applicants win over the admissions dean, while preparing them to write better papers once they've been accepted. For more, visit the author's website at [www.conquerthecollegeessay.com](http://www.conquerthecollegeessay.com).

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

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

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 Students, and Most Likely to Succeed*, among others.

Alan Gelb’s book covers everything a high school senior needs to know in an easy-to-read format. As the mother of a senior who procrastinated on every writing assignment he’s ever been given, I dreaded the college admission process. I envisioned the last day of December as a frantic time pushing my son to write essays at the last moment. Alan Gelb’s book provides an excellent analysis of the human feelings behind procrastination. His book is a great primer on writing, from choosing a point-of-view to replacing adverbs with strong verbs. It’s a must read for any writer. But what I liked best about his book is the process he uses for teasing out the conflict in an essay otherwise lacking in one. The clear format and chapter summations make it easy to use as a reference during the actual writing process. I highly recommend this book for every high school senior.

Your initial post: Jul 20, 2014 9:23:14 AM PDT I’ll go out on a limb and say: this book is not only invaluable for crafting a college admissions essay, but it will make anyone a better writer. I do a lot of writing in my (legal) profession and consider myself an adept writer, but boy, did I learn a lot from

Mr. Gelb -- about getting right to the point of an essay, about focusing on the tension/conflict that makes a piece of writing interesting, about letting your voice shine through, about dealing with procrastination and writer's block. Mr. Gelb's own writing is quite direct, graceful and humorous, so it's easy to trust his writing guidance. He never minimizes how hard writing is -- especially a piece of writing like the college essay, with so much riding on it -- but his roadmap makes it much easier to get the job done. Now to convince my applying-to-college daughter to take these lessons to heart.

As a first generation immigrant, I felt I didn't have enough knowledge to support my kids for their college applications. Essay was the biggest wildcard. This book provided a very well-defined process to nail down the scary essay writing part of the application. I read the entire book and really enjoyed it. So it became the top 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.

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!

'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.

This is a breezy and engagingly-written step-by-step guide to completing the college essay. We

ordered it together with several other books on the same topic, and found it the best pragmatic guide to lead you through the process. The writing style is very accessible and often entertaining, which lightens this often stressful task of getting it all together on paper.

It's a small book, but that belies the wealth of information and insight into college essay writing. The book is packed with exercises to get creative juices flowing, writing tips and tricks as well as do's and don'ts. Best of all, *Conquering the College Admissions Essay in 10 Steps* gives plenty of examples showcasing each and every step. Ultimately, the whole process allows you to know yourself better and to use words to effectively represent yourself, in a way that you can feel proud of. It really helps a novice writer go pro! I highly recommend to any top college seeking parents and students.

Gelb's experience and present work with students has been invaluable. Working now with students myself, using his book as a resource has given me a the basis for preparing them to think in ways they may not have previously. His suggestions help the writer to think of him or herself in a different way in addressing an audience that is unfamiliar. The examples he provides, some of which he has helped the student re-work, are presented with his reasons for doing so. The ten steps he offers are a great way to get a handle on the task, particularly for those who find it difficult getting their ideas limited, relevant, and interesting.

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