**Life After High School Essay: Dos and Don’ts**

* Ask yourself, “Would this be a topic I could have someone read aloud to audience of a thousand people while I sat alone with a spotlight aimed right on me?”
* Be Upbeat and Positive
* Tell a Story: setting, sensory details, vivid characterization, action, voice
* Be Tasteful
* Keep it Simple: quality over quantity
* Use a conversational tone. Be yourself.
* Tell the Truth
* Make sure your essay answers the questions: who, what, when, why, where and how
* Limit your use of direct quotes and exclamation points
* Read your essay aloud
* Get feedback, make notes, rewrite
* Proofread!

**Never Say** **Why**

In conclusion --it’s amateurish, boring, and common

Anything bleepable --obviously

Anything that can get you arrested --Regardless of what you learned or how sorry you are

That you wrote the essay the night before --Unless it’s really that good

However --more than once

Etc., etc. --don’t let us guess what the et cetera might mean

Anything sexual --please

That you are applying because your --this is not Love Connection

Boyfriend or girlfriend is going there

That you don’t care --The admissions committee will believe you

That you are looking forward to --This is not Animal House

College parties

Something untrue --It’s wrong, unethical and you can get caught.

That you hate anyone --Hatred is the demonstration of a closed mind

That you wish you were different, better --accentuate the positive

Or smarter

That you’re in it for the money --not an admirable motivation in eyes of university

That your parents don’t understand --Nobody’s parents understand them or their

You or your friends friends all the time

That anything “sucks” --Even when it does

That someone helped you write the essay --Don’t let anyone write your essay…please

That you don’t know why you think or feel --Ever…in the essay

The way you do.