

Writing a Stellar Essay



**Steps to Success + Exercises for
Global Program Applicants**

Steps to Success



Writing Essays can be stressful—but it doesn't have to be. Make the most of your time with these tips and knock your next application out of the park!



READ THROUGH THE ESSAY GUIDELINES

Write down each question or topic that the essay prompt is asking you to address in a bulleted list. Leave space under each bullet.



BRAINSTORM HOW YOU WANT TO ANSWER EACH PROMPT

Now that you have a sheet with each of your topics in a bulleted list, start writing down ideas on how you might address each topic.



CREATE A STRUCTURE

Now, you have draft idea for the main body of your essay. Arrange each of these topics in a way that flows nicely. You still need an introduction and a conclusion.



WRITE YOUR FIRST DRAFT

We recommend that you start with a spark to engage the reader. Start with "why" you want to study abroad and where you want to go. Be sure to include your entire program title, term and program type. Next, summarize what you will share in your essay.

It's important that your reader has caught a glimpse of who YOU are and WHY this experience will be meaningful for you, personally and professionally.



PROOFREAD & POLISH

Proofread your essay. Then share it with a strong writer in your community to get their thoughts on it. Be sure to check that your essay answers each of the scholarship prompts.



GET FEEDBACK FROM THE HUB WRITING CENTER

Appointments can be 30, 45, or 60 minutes. Share details about the writing project or assignment (you can upload prompts and rubrics via their appointment portal).

www.scu.edu/provost/writingcenter



SUBMIT YOUR ESSAYS!

Be sure to resolve any additional suggestions from the HUB Writing Center. Send it back to them if you want to, and if time allows for one more check. Then when you feel good about it, submit and give yourself a pat on the back. You did it!

BRAINSTORM YOUR INITIAL THOUGHTS

TOPIC/ QUESTION 1:

TOPIC/ QUESTION 5:

TOPIC/ QUESTION 2:

TOPIC/ QUESTION 6:

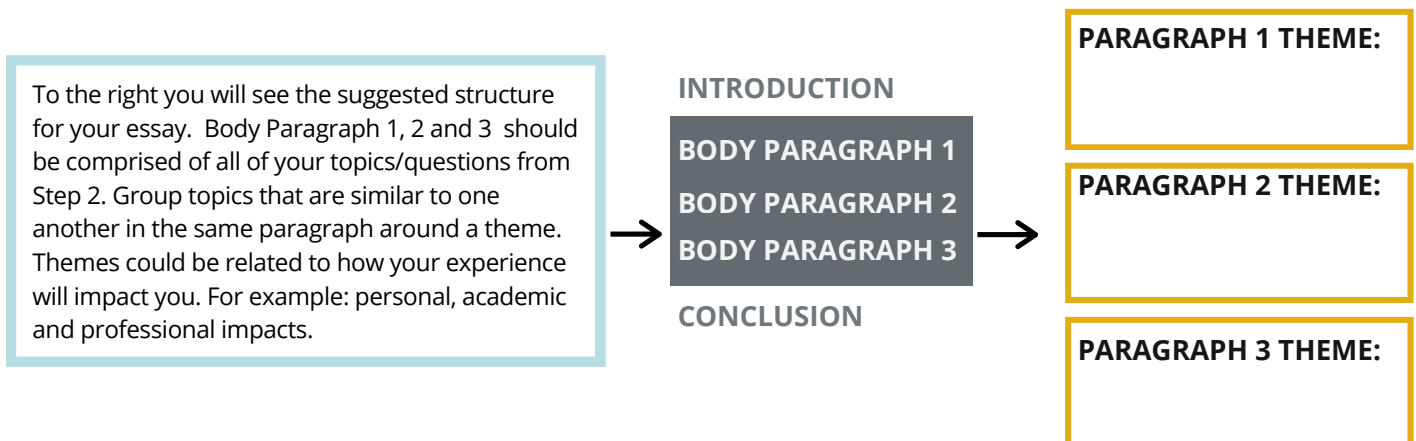
TOPIC/ QUESTION 3:

TOPIC/ QUESTION 7:

TOPIC/ QUESTION 4:

TOPIC/ QUESTION 8:

CREATE YOUR FIRST DRAFT



INTRO TIPS

Start with why. Include what you are doing and where. Share part of your story. Who are you? How do you identify? Introduce the impact this experience will have on your life, which will be further explained in body paragraphs 1, 2 +3. For example: "Studying abroad in South Africa will impact my personal development (body paragraph 1), academic achievement (body paragraph 2) and professional goals (body paragraph 3)."

INTRODUCTION

BODY PARAGRAPH TIPS

Arrange all of your topic/questions from step 1 +2 into groups related to your three themes. Your paragraph themes should be arranged in the same order that you introduce them in your introduction.

BODY PARAGRAPH 1

BODY PARAGRAPH 2

BODY PARAGRAPH 3

CONCLUSION TIPS

Reiterate everything you already mentioned in a summary. Consider including how your study abroad experience could be shared with your communities and how it will impact your future.

CONCLUSION

PROOF READ & FINISH

We recommend that you read through your essay, meet with the HUB Writing Center for review, and make sure that it follows the below suggestions:

REMEMBER, THIS IS EDUCATIONAL

I have replaced the words trip and travel with appropriate substitutes such as program, experience, study or intern abroad program etc.

☐

SHOW YOU'VE DONE COURSE RESEARCH

I have referenced several courses that I plan to take on this program and directly tied the courses to my personal, professional or academic goals.

☐

BE SPECIFIC, NOT STEREOTYPIC

I am not making generalizations of the host culture, and instead, I'm speaking about specific aspects of the host culture that are personal and exciting. (If you're unsure, do some research or meet with an advisor.)

☐

EXPLAIN YOUR FINANCIAL SITUATION

I have explained the financial circumstances that I am experiencing that are not conveyed through my financial aid documents. I have shared how I plan to pay for this program, and how beneficial receiving this scholarship would be.

☐

DON'T ASSUME THE READER KNOWS YOUR PROGRAM

I have written out the program's full title, location, term and program type in my essay as it appears in Santa Clara's Global Program Database.

☐

SHARE YOUR VARIOUS IDENTITIES

I've shared the prominent aspects of myself and the way I grew up that impact how I view the world around me. I have included all identities that relate to me.

☐

WHAT ELSE WILL YOU DO THERE?

I have researched internship, research, or service learning opportunities offered on the program and described how they relate to my personal, professional, or academic goals.

☐

WHY THIS PROGRAM? WHY NOW?

I have clearly addressed why I chose this program over others. I've also clearly explained why I'm going during this time.

☐