

## ESSAY ONE OUTLINE EXAMPLE

**STEP ONE:** Take time to make sure you really understand the prompt. Rewriting the prompt in your own words may help.

*What is it about this school that makes you think it's a place that will help you achieve your future goals?*

**STEP TWO:** Get your creativity flowing by brainstorming as many ideas as you can think of to address the prompt.

- *SU has a nationally recognized science department, and I'm interested in science.*
- *SU values diversity which is important to me because I'm an American Sikh.*
- *I can pursue my interest in robotics at SU's Dept. of Electrical and Computer Engineering.*

**STEP THREE:** Decide which idea you like the best and create an outline for your essay. Use the outline to generate ideas and figure out how you're going to order them. Wait until you start drafting your essay to flesh out examples, ideas, and explanations.

### I. INTRODUCTION

Ideas for an attention-grabbing introduction (relevant definition, interesting quote, striking statistic, brief story, dialogue, etc.):

- *Define "passion" and relate it to my love for science and robotics*
- *Talk about my role on our school's first robotics team*
- *The science training I went to at the University of Texas*
- *How I felt when we got demolished at our first robotics competition*
- *How we convinced Mr. Hill to sponsor the robotics team*
- *The conversation I had with my mom about going to the military instead of college*

**Thesis Statement:** sentence or two, usually at the end of the introduction, that contains the focus of your essay and tells your reader what the essay is going to be about.

*Something like, "My participation in the Student Science Training Program led me to discover that State University offers everything I need to pursue my passion for science and engineering."*

## II. BODY

A paper may have a few or many main points; decide how many your paper will need. It may take more than one paragraph to adequately discuss a point.

1. **Main Point:** *In addition to science, I'm also passionate about diversity because of my religion.*

### **Examples/Details/Explanations:**

- a) *SU emphasizes and values diversity on its campus*
- b) *Talk about what I've learned through my own experiences with diversity*
- c) *Talk about what my experiences can add to the college community*

2. **Main Point:** *SU's value on diversity is demonstrated through the variety of specialized departments on campus.*

### **Examples/Details/Explanations:**

- a) *Even though the campus is very diverse, SU does an excellent job of helping students feel like they belong.*
- b) *The collaboration between departments mirrors the real world and helps ensure no one feels isolated.*
- c) *Talk about how these qualities fit with my view of the world.*

## III. CONCLUSION

Wrap up your essay. You want to restate or summarize your thesis here to highlight the fact that your essay did indeed accomplish what you said it would. After reading your essay, the reader should see your main thought with a fresher, deeper understanding—your conclusion should reflect that. Consider including one or two, but certainly not all, of the following ideas:

- Bring your essay full circle, by referring back to the attention grabber in you used in the intro.
- Use an interesting quote and discuss its relevance to the experiences you discussed in your essay.
- *Briefly* summarize main points.
- Evoke a vivid image.
- Ask a provocative question.
- How will the points you discussed impact your future?

- What did you learn about yourself?
- Point to the broader implications of the lessons you've learned.

*\*Don't be afraid to be idealistic or declare your hopes and dreams, but don't get too corny. Ask for the opinions of friends or teachers to make sure you're not doing too much.*

- Come back to my definition of "passion," if I use that idea.
- Talk about how my role on the robotics team helped prepare me for similar roles in other areas of life.
- If I talk about the science training in the intro, I can come back and talk about how the things I learned there made it clear that SU is a good fit for me.
- How losing the robotics competition made me more determined than ever to succeed in science as well as life.
- How the conversation with my mom helped me decide the path I want to follow and how SU can help me follow that path.