

Enhanced Prep



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The College Application Essay

Create *The Likability Factor* - Student Brainstorming Worksheet

List ten adjectives that describe you. (Examples: sincere, empathetic, determined, tenacious, curious, loyal)

Now narrow these down to a top five.

Of these five, choose three.

What life experience(s) and/or challenges have you had that exemplify these particular adjectives (if any)? Write down anything that comes to mind.

Take one of the experiences or challenges listed above. How does this experience or challenge exemplify a specific character trait, belief, and/or perspective you have? (Recommended: repeat this question for several ideas.)

What did you learn from this experience or challenge?

How has this particular experience or challenge influenced other areas of your life (extracurriculars, academics, relationships, future aspirations, etc.)?

Other Questions for Exploration

What is “weird” about you? What is unique to you alone?

What captivates you?

You’ve got the transcript, the resume, the recommendation letters. What does your entire college application *not* say about you? What does it leave out?

What is your favorite word and why?

Of all of the ideas you’ve brainstormed in this worksheet, what excites *you* the most?